

Kurdish deputies cause uproar

ANCARA (R) — Uproar broke out in Turkey's newly-elected parliament Wednesday over open displays of Kurdish nationalism by deputies at the oath-taking ceremony. "Long live the Kurdish people and Kurdistan," declared Leyla Zana, member from the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, in Kurdish after reciting her oath in Turkish. Ms. Zana, a slight, pale woman in a black dress, wore a headband in the Kurdish national colours of red, yellow and green. Acting Speaker Ali Riza Sepioğlu, himself a Kurd, adjourned the session for a second 15-minute recess as tempers flared. Unruly members banged their desks, shouted, and stormed to the rostrum after Diyarbakir Deputy Hatip Dicle said: "My friends and I are reading this text under constitutional duress." The scenes of pandemonium were broadcast live on television from the wood-panelled general assembly hall in Ankara. Mr. Dicle, one of a 22-strong Kurdish faction in the Social Democratic Populist Party (SDP), is chairman of the Diyarbakir branch of Turkey's Human Rights Association. "We are wearing these colours to protest at an interior ministry ban on them in the southeast and because they are the national symbol of the Kurdish people," Mr. Dicle said and of his breast pocket tricolour before the parliament session opened.

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Iraqi defence minister replaced

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein removed his defence minister Wednesday and replaced him with Interior Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. A presidential decree said Defence Minister Hassan Kamel Hassan had been relieved of his duties. Mr. Majid, who played a leading role in crushing post-Gulf war rebellions in the Kurdish north, will continue to act as interior minister for the time being, INA said.

UFO sighted in northern Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — An unidentified flying object (UFO) was observed in the skies over northern Israel early Wednesday, police reported. "It was a shining object, quite large as compared to other sky objects seen at the time," a police said. Police was first informed about the UFO at about 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) by a local taxi driver. The firm news agency quoted the driver as saying the UFO resembled a shining half-ellipse. "We came to the area where the UFO was seen and we followed it while driving east ... it was in the air at the height of about 200 metres until the morning hours," the driver said. "Then at about 6 a.m. it disappeared." Asked to describe the mysterious object's flight, he said: "It moved to some point, stopped, made turns around itself and after several minutes moved in the northern direction and then back to the spot where it has initially stopped. "It cannot make assumptions and decide what it was. This is what I saw ... police force was with us and they saw the same picture."

Arab allies in war to meet in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — The foreign ministers of six Gulf Arab states, Syria and Egypt are due to meet in Cairo Sunday to discuss regional security plans and the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Wednesday. Mr. Musa told reporters the ministers would discuss implementation of the Gulf security accord reached in March and "achieving cooperation between the eight states in the fields of security, politics, economy and information." Mr. Musa said the ministers would also discuss preparations to start the second phase of the Middle East peace talks after last week's peace conference in Madrid.

Joseph Skaf dies

BEIRUT (R) — Joseph Skaf, a prominent member of the Lebanese parliament and a former cabinet minister, died of a heart attack in Paris Tuesday, officials said. Mr. Skaf, 69, from the town of Zahlé in the eastern Bekaa Valley, served in several governments and was defence minister when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. His death reduced the number of deputies in the 106-seat assembly to 106 and gave Metnese a two-seat majority, the officials said Wednesday. The last general elections in Lebanon were in 1972. The government appointed 40 new deputies in June.

SLA: No prisoner release expected

TEL AVIV (AP) — The commander of Israel's proxy militia in South Lebanon was quoted by Israeli media Wednesday as saying he had no plans to release more prisoners from the Al Khiam prison. Freedom for Arabs held in the militia's prison, has been demanded as the price for releasing nine Western hostages in Lebanon. "I think that at this point we have freed enough prisoners from Al Khiam and we are not freeing additional prisoners at this point," Antoine Lahd of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, was quoted as saying by the daily Haaretz and radio stations.

De Klerk due in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk will pay a three-day visit to Israel next week, the foreign ministry said Wednesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومية سلسلة برسالة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Kuwait emir caps last oil fire

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait ended the world's worst oil field disaster with a solemn ceremony on Wednesday after taming the last of 732 wells torched in the Gulf war. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, flicked a remote-control switch that sealed the "last" well after firefighters — their equipment freshly painted — quenched a 50-metre column of fire which had been reignited for the occasion. The last of the actual Gulf war fires was extinguished without fanfare earlier in the day in northern Kuwait. It had burned longer than expected because of shifting winds. Smoke from Kuwait oil fires formed a 1,000 kilometre plume which blanketed much of the Gulf for several months since February, blotting out the sun and causing record low temperatures. Hundreds of oil lakes, formed by spilled crude, still dot the desert. The well where the ceremony took place, 40 kilometres south of Kuwait City, had been brought under control last week.

Delegation returns from Madrid, satisfied case presented to the world

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference returned to Amman Wednesday to a warm welcome by His Majesty King Hussein, and expressed satisfaction that they successfully presented the Jordanian and Palestinian case to the world community from the Spanish capital last week.

King Hussein shook hands with the returning delegates, who were accompanied by their advisory and media committees and members of the Jordanian and Palestinian press. Also welcoming the group, which attended the U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace conference, were Prime Minister Taher Masri, Palestine Ambassador Tayeb Abdul Rahim, Jordanian officials and families of the delegation.

Although still unsure of the venue of the next round of talks with Israel, the jubilant-looking head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Abdul Salam Majali, described the beginning of the historic conference as a success as he returned home with his Palestinian colleagues.

"I think we have succeeded," Dr. Majali told journalists, adding that the Palestinian and Jordanian identities had now become clear to the world.

The Palestinian people and land were in the hearts, in the ears and in front of the eyes of

possibly every person in the world, in every village, every room and every club," Dr. Majali said. "And that is a great success in itself."

He added that the conference, which was covered worldwide by the international media and in many cases live on television, had also proven wrong the Israeli claims that "Jordan is Palestine."

"The Jordanian identity was very clear and we hoped that we clarified in the minds of the people that Jordan is no more Palestine as the Israelis claimed," Dr. Majali stressed.

Commenting on whether there were any indications that Israel would eventually withdraw from the occupied territories, Dr. Majali said he hoped that Israel's talk of peace would change into deeds.

The leading Jordanian delegate told reporters that the negotiating priority for the Kingdom with the Israelis in the next round of meetings would be Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, but that this issue could not be a precondition to the negotiations.

"The issue of the settlements is the very first thing to be discussed by us and by the Palestinian delegation, and by the Arab delegations," Dr. Majali said, adding that an Israeli freeze of settlements would not be a precondition because "you have to put a procedure first and then set the agenda."

The spokesperson and advisor

(Continued on page 5)

Baker rebukes Israel for settlement, sets 2 weeks for decision on talks venue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker has rebuked Israel for opening a new Golan Heights settlement within hours of its peace talks with Arab states, saying it's "hard for us to see" how that helps the process.

Mr. Baker also said Tuesday a two-week consultation period is needed before Israel and the Arab states can decide on when and where to hold follow-up talks to their historic negotiations in Madrid.

"That's not an ironclad deadline," Mr. Baker said. "The process needs at least two weeks" for the peace conference representatives to return to their countries and consult with leaders on the next steps.

He made the comments in a news conference with reporters at the White House.

Asked about Israel's inauguration of a new Jewish settlement in the occupied Golan Heights, Mr. Baker said: "You know our attitude on settlements. We've made

it very clear. And it's... hard for us to see how inaugurating a new settlement now can help the negotiating process that we've just finished launching."

Just getting the parties to the table in bilateral talks was a threshold-crossing milestone, said Mr. Baker, who spent countless hours working to make it happen.

"What I think is needed now more than anything else are steps that would create a positive environment for these talks," he said.

In an obvious slam at Israel, he added, "and steps or actions that are provocative or unilateral, steps that would be seen by one side or the other as provocative, whether they are provocative or not, are hardly likely, I think, to build the kind of climate that would serve the cause of peace."

The ceremony Monday to inaugurate the new settlement of Kelt was attended by Israel's hardline

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis kill Palestinian, ban all demonstrations

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in the West Bank late Tuesday and the army said all unauthorized demonstrations in the occupied territories, including peace marches, would be banned.

Troops shot and critically wounded Mahdi Abu Al Hassan, 19, in Arrabe village in the occupied West Bank after allegedly he pointed a submachine gun at them, reports said.

Mr. Hassan later died of his

Israeli killed 838 Palestinians since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987, according to a Reuter court.

Army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak told Israeli television his troops would prevent all unauthorized demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We will not allow any sort of demonstrations. With that, for now, if a demonstration develops and it is not violent the commander in the field will consider the correct manner to disperse it," he said.

The principal problem is that some of the demonstrations that begin with olive branches ... turn quickly into violent demonstrations with stone throwing and physical confrontation."

Palestinians supporting the landmark Arab-Israeli peace talks have come out in their thousands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, demanding army vehicles with olive branches.

But there have also been smaller demonstrations by hardline Palestinian groups against the peace process.

The fundamentalist Hamas movement on Tuesday issued a leaflet promising death to supporters of peace.

"We warn away those bargaining over Palestine ... that he who will approve the confiscation of Palestine and Jerusalem will not pass without a punishment. The fate of (Anwar) Sadat is already known," it said in reference to the Egyptian president killed in 1981.

"We hold the PLO, the Palestinian delegation, and the Arab regimes responsible," the leaflet said.

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Israel: Issue of site for bilaterals could be discussed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said Wednesday that Israel would be willing to listen to other proposals for where to hold bilateral talks with Arab states if the Mideast were definitely ruled out.

"We still hold to our position that the talks should take place in the region, and we will try to consult and reach that goal," said spokesman Ehud Gol.

"If this doesn't work we will hear other proposals," he said.

Israeli newspapers have speculated that Rhodes or Cyprus could be acceptable sites, but Mr. Gol said only that countries close to the Middle East might be an option.

Mr. Gol later said, however, that he was not saying Israel would necessarily accept a site outside the region.

Cyrus said Wednesday it was

The question where bilateral talks would be held emerged as a key disagreement at the Madrid peace talks. Israel wants the talks held alternately on its own soil and that of each Arab state. Syria insists on a neutral site.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Tuesday called on Israel and the Arabs to decide within two weeks where the next round of Middle East peace talks should be held.

If there's no agreement ... we will feel free to submit proposals" on a site to follow up the meeting in Madrid, Mr. Baker told a White House news conference.

Mr. Gol said that Israel was "obviously consulting with the Americans as well" on the issue of bilateral talks, saying that "together we will reach some sort of understanding."

On Wednesday, the daily Haaretz reported that Israeli officials would secretly meet Syrians in Europe and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the occupied territories to choose sites for the bilateral talks.

"We hold the PLO, the Palestinian delegation, and the Arab regimes responsible," the leaflet said.

"We will not allow any sort of demonstrations. With that, for now, if a demonstration develops and it is not violent the commander in the field will consider the correct manner to disperse it," he said.

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(See related story on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference upon their return to Amman. The King greets (clockwise) Abdul Salam Al Majali, head of the Jordanian team in the delegation, and Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian side, and Dr. Majali speaks to the press at the airport (Photos by Yousef AlAlian)



King, Arafat discuss outcome of peace conference, next moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Wednesday Palestine President Yasser Arafat and reviewed with him the outcome of the first phase of the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

The King and Mr. Arafat also exchanged views about the requirements of the next stage in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was present at the audience as well as Prime Minister Taher Masri and other officials together with a Palestinian delegation accompanying Mr. Arafat, who arrived here late Tuesday.

Mr. Masri met separately with

Mr. Arafat, who left late

Wednesday, and discussed with him the outcome of the peace conference held in Madrid.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the Arab parties' performance at the Madrid conference and the level of coordination and cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators who attended the meeting in a joint delegation.

The two sides also discussed

following up such cooperation at the various stages of the peace process.

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Petra photo)

Following the meeting, Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said that coordination between the two sides will continue on all matters.

Asked to comment on reports on the prospect of convening an Arab summit meeting, Mr. Sharif said the subject was not raised at the meeting although a number of Arab countries have been seeking a summit.

The two sides also discussed following up such cooperation at the various stages of the peace process.

SLA continues shelling as Karami assails Sharon

TYRE (Agencies) — Israeli-backed militiamen shelled villages in the southern market town of Nabatiyeh and the nearby Iglin Al Tuffah, in addition to fields of Bellafet and Ain Al Tineh in the western Beqaa Valley in southeast Lebanon, with Howitzers.

Another 40 artillery rounds were fired from Israel and SLA positions inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south on the same areas overnight, the UN source added.

They did not have an immediate word on casualties.

Hizbullah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement released in this southern port city, Hizbullah said the explosion blew up a joint Israeli-SLA patrol, killing or wounding three members of the patrol.

SLA gunners retaliated by shelling the villages of Yater and Hadath, both near Rafah and within the United Nations' peacekeepers' zone of operations, the sources said.

A source at the U.N. peacekeepers' headquarters in the border town of Naqoura said at least 40 rounds of mortar shells fell on the two villages.

The source said Israel also shelled for a second day "Hizbullah

Abu Jaber returns, says Madrid first step for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber returned to Amman Wednesday after holding talks in Brussels with European Community (EC) foreign ministers on political and economic issues of concern to Jordan and Europe.

Dr. Abu Jaber who earlier flew to Brussels Friday after leading the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, said in a statement upon returning to Amman that the peace conference constituted a step towards achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He said a peace settlement would come within a defined agenda based on international legality and U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which call for the exchange of land for peace and Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's right in their homeland.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the conference reopened the file of the Palestinian issue and placed Israel face to face with the crucial question of peace.

The conference showed that Israel's call for direct negotiations with the Arabs in the past years was only a manoeuvre and the coming weeks will show Israel's real intentions and whether it has the desire to deal with the Palestine problem on the basis of justice and international legitimacy, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7-8, 1991

PFLP freezes its membership in PLO Executive Committee

DAMASCUS (AP) — George Habash Wednesday announced the freezing of the membership of his group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee.

He said his group's central committee decided on the freeze "because we cannot bear responsibility for the wrong policy adopted by the dominant leadership (of the PLO)" in attending the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

Addressing a crowded news conference at his Damascus headquarters, Dr. Habash maintained that a Middle East settlement can only come about through the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions.

He charged that the United States, which worked strenuously for the convening of the Madrid conference last week, "is seeking a solution which has nothing to do with international law or U.N. resolutions."

He said: "The United States is proposing a liquidatory settlement which ignores the Palestinians' rights, while guaranteeing Israel's security and superiority."

"Above all it provides Israel with Palestinian, Arab and international recognition of its illegitimate presence on our land."

Dr. Habash said a continuing illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory gives the Palestinians "the right to escalate the intifada."

"We also have the right to escalate military action against military targets inside Israel," he added.

The PFLP claimed responsibility for an attack on an Israeli settlers' bus the day two days before the opening of the Madrid conference, which killed two Israelis and wounded five.

The leader of the group spoke in front of a poster of Lenin and Latin American revolutionary theorist Che Guevara.

Other posters in the room showed Palestinian boys throwing rocks at Israeli troops, predicting victory in the intifada.

Stressing his words with an uplifted index finger, Dr. Habash vowed that "We shall continue the struggle to achieve freedom and independence, repatriation and self determination, for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

He appealed for unity against "all secondary conflicts which only serve the enemy."

He said the PFLP would cooperate with all other groups, including the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas in the occupied territories.

"But this cooperation will not reach the stage of forming a block that could be regarded as an alternative to the PLO," he added.

Dr. Habash responded with a brusque "no" when asked if he approved of calls by pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalist Palestinian groups, and some Iranian leaders, for the assassination of the Arab delegates for attending the Madrid conference.

He explained that the PFLP would retain its membership of other PLO institutions.

But he warned that if the PLO continued with "other deviationist steps," the PFLP would withdraw completely from the executive committee, making its freeze permanent.

Dr. Habash added that his group would take similar action also if Israel continued to establish new settlements in the occupied territories.

Hammadi named adviser to Saddam

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's ruling Revolution Command Council has made former Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi a special adviser to President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) on Wednesday quoted a government newspaper as saying.

The daily Babil, run by President Saddam's son, Oudai, said Mr. Hammadi, a Shiite, was made an adviser to President Saddam with the rank of minister.

Shiites make up 55 per cent of Iraq's 17 million population, but President Saddam and most of his ruling elite are members of the minority Sunni sect, many from Tikrit 120 kilometres north of Baghdad.

In September, the RCC appointed a new prime minister, Mohammad Al Zubaidi, to replace Dr. Hammadi. Dr. Zubaidi is also a Shiite.

DR. Hammadi had been one Shiite in the government and is now the only Shiite in the government and on the RCC. Reasons for his sacking were never divulged.

President Saddam had appointed Dr. Hammadi, a veteran of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, on March 23.

It was the first time he had appointed a prime minister, having previously held the post himself. Dr. Hammadi's appointment was part of a package pledging greater democracy.

In that reshuffle, he also made then-Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz a deputy prime minister. Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer, a former head of the presidential office, became the new foreign minister.

Dr. Hammadi would now have the rank of a cabinet minister, INA said.

President Saddam increased the number of his advisers from seven to nine in September.

U.N. chief urges Israel and Arabs to compromise

MADRID (R) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday called for concessions by both Israel and the Arabs in order not to jeopardise Middle East peace talks which opened in Madrid last week.

"Madrid has proved that dialogue is possible," he said in his first comments since unprecedented bilateral talks between the Middle East adversaries ended early Monday.

In order to create a favourable climate for the talks to continue, Israel should suspend its settlements in occupied Arab land, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told Spain's Canal Plus television.

On the other hand Arab states should change their systematic anti-Israel rhetoric which obviously creates in Israel an atmosphere of mistrust regarding Arab countries' will to recognise Israel ...," he said.

The United States insists Iraq has not declared all its assets and wants to make sure food was not being used as a political weapon. Washington has also said sanctions would remain in effect as long as Saddam Hussein is in power.

Baghdad authorities have not accepted Resolution 706 on oil exports for food imports which Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told Reuters relegated his country to a state of refugees.

"How can we accept that someone else handle the people's money?" the minister said, with proof of next year's food ration cards on his lap.

To date, Iraq has received food and medicines from relief agencies of its own purchases abroad, leading Western nations to demand where Iraq had received the funds.

Iraqi diplomats maintain Baghdad has no large reserves and was drawing on some of its assets overseas and funds generated from a trickle of trade with Jordan permitted under the sanctions regime.

Most purchases have to be cleared through the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

While the majority of requests are approved, the United States and Britain recently have turned down supplies they say are not for emergency needs, but to repair the country's war-damaged infrastructure.

These included lampposts from Spain, bricks for a new building from Bulgaria and Tunisian tanker trucks for carrying vegetable oil, committee envoys said.

At that time, the coalition that fought Iraq in the war wanted U.N. security guards to protect Tazmamart without any contact with their families. He said he had been warned not to reveal details of their ordeal.

The team is headed by Sami Rachman, head of the Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party and a veteran negotiator.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani negotiated the latest autonomy deal which has been on the table since August.

The deal builds on a 1970 autonomy agreement but which Kurds say was never fully respected.

Mr. Barzani and his chief rival Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), disagree over whether to accept the latest deal. Mr. Talabani wants the disputed oil city of Kirkuk and other towns included in a new autonomous region.

Kurdish sources say the Military Coordination Centre (MCC), the residual U.S. and allied military presence in northern Iraq, met Iraqi army officers in Fayda Monday to complain about the blockade.

The inmates were fed stale bread and bean soups and given meat only once a year. Most had lost their teeth and were given dentures and medical treatment before their release.

He said 18 months before leaving Tazmamart one of the prisoners, an electronics specialist, made a small radio and they heard reports of their detention on the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio France Internationale.

Twelve were convicted for their part in an army raid on the

king's seaside palace at Skhirat in July 1971, and the remaining 14 for their involvement in an air force attack on an airliner bringing the king back from France in August 1972.

One of the released men, who spoke on condition he not be named, told Reuters they were held in total darkness at Tazmamart without any contact with their families. He said he had been warned not to reveal details of their ordeal.

He said 30 prisoners of the original 58 moved to Tazmamart in August 1973 had died of malnutrition, disease or by suicide. Two hanged themselves in March and June this year.

The inmates were fed stale bread and bean soups and given meat only once a year. Most had lost their teeth and were given dentures and medical treatment before their release.

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One of the released men, who spoke on condition he not be named, told Reuters they were held in total darkness at Tazmamart without any contact with their families. He said he had been warned not to reveal details of their ordeal.

He said 30 prisoners of the original 58 moved to Tazmamart in August 1973 had died of malnutrition, disease or by suicide. Two hanged themselves in March and June this year.

The inmates were fed stale bread and bean soups and given meat only once a year. Most had lost their teeth and were given dentures and medical treatment before their release.

Most of those freed — 13 officers and 13 non-commission

Jordan Times

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A job well done

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein was at Amman airport Wednesday evening to receive the returning Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference. This gesture by the King is a testimony to his and the Jordanian people's strong appreciation of the effort put forth by each and everyone of the delegates to the historic parley. Despite more than a week of hard work, and many hours of preparatory meetings and research, the delegation members were enthusiastic and upbeat. They feel, rightly so, that they were party to making history. A lot of praise goes to the delegation heads and the spokespersons who scored many points against the Israeli propagandists. The Israelis, as can be discerned from their media reports and analysis are both bitter and envious of the success of the Jordanian-Palestinian performance at Madrid. Experts at manipulating the media and public opinion, especially in the West, the Israelis are blaming the Western media of advocating the Arab cause and taking the Arab side at the expense of Israel.

Upset at their own failure to defend maximalist and impossible stances, the Israelis are now even contemplating forming a ministry of information to help repair the severe damage sustained by them at Madrid. What they choose to ignore though is the fact that the success with the media by the Jordanians and Palestinians was not because they had ministries of information, but because of the justice of our cause. Hanan Ashrawi, who repeatedly stole the limelight from and shined brighter than Benjamin Netanyahu in the Spanish capital, has no ministry of information behind her. The Jordanians and the Palestinians present at and around the peace conference had responded in and interacted with the press honestly and genuinely, without using Netanyahu's stereotypes of "biblical Israel," "terrorists" and "Arabs bent on destroying Israel." They went to Madrid as peace-seekers who want an end to Israel's brutal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, an occupation whose atrocities have long been exposed in reports of governments and international organisations such as Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department. Apart from certain manipulations of the Syrian performance and positions, the Arabs generally did a superb job. Our delegations stated the position of Jordan and Palestine and the aspirations of Jordanians and Palestinians clearly and succinctly. They did not go to lecture the world in the distinct history of the holy land nor did they level false accusations against the other side, as the Israelis tried to do unto us.

Last night when the joint delegation arrived in Amman every member must have felt very proud at the warm welcome they received from the Jordanian leadership, and they deserve to be. They left with olive branches in their hands and returned with wreaths of triumph. We salute them, for they have done a good job in representing us and our cause.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is quite satisfactory to see Western nations realising the truth about Jordan's position with regard to the Gulf crisis and the Palestine problem and trying to awaken to the realities and the facts of the ground, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that the Western media had been hostile to Jordan during the Gulf crisis when Jordan was trying to advocate reason rather than war and bloodshed, but it seems that now everything is changing to the better as the press in the West has been reflecting a different view about the kingdom. Jordan's position has not changed throughout the crisis and its call for reason persists because its people and leadership continue to denounce any call for warmongering and reject the destruction of a country and its people, the paper stressed. It said that Jordan has been seeking to save the Middle East from suffering and bloodshed and has, for that matter, won many enemies in the West which was bent on launching war on Iraq. The paper said that the Western media has now realised the truth about Jordan which adopts moderate policies as it pursues the democratic process on all fronts. It said that the Western media has discovered that it has been promoting lies and falsehoods about Jordan and has been deceiving the public in the Western countries. It is quite interesting, said the paper, to see how the Western media will now deal with the question of Israel's continued rejection of the international legality and the implementation of U.N. resolutions that call for an end to the occupation of Palestinian land.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily called for an immediate freeze of all settlements being built on the occupied Palestinian land and said this is a pre-requisite for the achievement of a lasting peace. The paper said that despite the initial satisfaction over the outcome of the opening session at the Madrid conference, one can only view with apprehension the ongoing aggressive policies of the Shamir government, represented in the construction of settlements on Arab land. The settlements constitute a flagrant defiance of the world community's will and the U.N., especially as such settlements are being erected as the peace conference is in progress, said the paper. It said that the building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and the Syrian Golan Heights represents a provocation to the Arab side and the co-sponsors of the peace parley and therefore, every effort should be exerted now to halt this process that is detrimental to the future stability and security of the region. Unless the Bush administration imposes its will and the requirements of peace on Israel, it is feared that all its endeavours to bring about a lasting settlement could be jeopardised, the paper stressed. It said that the United States is called on the force Israel to stop the construction of settlements so that the road to peace can be opened for all parties.

Reflections

Central planning and centralised whimsy

By Safwan Batash

AS I grappled with a myriad of conflicting emotions and a few shattering revelations, all invoked by the drama in Madrid and each worthy of expansive commentary, a shopkeeper told me a story which provided both a merciful distraction from anguished thoughts and a timely opportunity to avoid writing something I may regret about the peace process.

It seems that the Ministry of Supply, which has a monopoly on the distribution of strategic custom-free goods like Pierre Cardin suits and others, had ceased to supply the shops with foreign brand cigarettes a few days before. The official reason given to inquiring shopkeepers was that the bureaucrat in charge had to attend to his sick wife.

I was so touched by this latest manifestation of public sector humaneness that I wished all goods and services would be provided exclusively by the government (a wish that may soon be fulfilled in the present rush towards socialist ideals). I got thinking about all those selfish businessmen and companies who keep bringing their goods to the market regardless of the health of their employees or the health of their employees' spouses. Even the pains of the director's wife would not deter these private organisms of greed from going about their daily activities as if nothing had happened.

What kind of a world is that which makes a fuss about tuna and furcoats being stained with the blood of dolphins and minks and keeps silent about all other private sector goods which may be stained with the blood of human mothers? Should we, Jordanians, continue to indulge our stomachs and lungs while oblivious to human suffering? Certainly not. Let us affirm our humanity by turning over all commercial activities to the public sector. This

way, each time our children go without milk, shoes, or potato chips, we know that a public sector mother is suffering somewhere and we can teach the children a practical lesson in human solidarity.

I am proud to note that while bastions of communism like China and North Vietnam are dismissing millions of civil servants and threatening public sector firms with closure if they do not show a profit, we, in Jordan, spend every last penny we receive on hiring more civil servants and raising their hard-earned pay. Furthermore, we have no intention of molesting our public sector companies or bothering them in any way even though many of them are practically and legally bankrupt.

I am even prouder of the fact that while socialist countries are falling over each other in their mad rush towards capitalist dictates and such vulgar notions as economic growth and higher income, we, in Jordan, have finally decided to drop all pretenses of a free economy and private initiative and to pursue openly our long-held socialist ideals. These ideals are articulated all so well by the media in daily calls for the government to intervene everywhere and at all times, and by the statements of both departing ministers (Mr. Dugham's interview with "Shabab" is one notable example) and those who still have not found a popular cause to quit over. The socialist ideals are embodied in the decided socialist composition of the new political elite, in every nook and cranny of the economy, and, of course, in those towering creations of socialist ingenuity: the ministries of supply and planning.

Most importantly, our own brand of socialist/bureaucratic philosophy is home-grown and authentically original. While central planners in other socialist countries used to (until their

recent demise) allocate production targets to various public sector firms and review their performance annually, we eschewed such mundane practices. Instead, we developed our own system of centralised personal style management.

This is how it works: first, you ensure that the laws, bi-laws, codes, rules and regulations and the absence of transparent and non-discretionary procedures will render all activities on Jordanian soil dormant till action is taken by the Council of Ministers. Second, you encapsulate these actions in the form of decrees tucked neatly into colourful folders of green, red, blue and, sometimes, yellow. Third, you pile these folders sky high in front of senior ministers and Cabinet meetings for review and signature. Fourth, you keep the whole country on hold till the Cabinet or any one of a multitude of ministerial committees convenes. Therefore, if the senior minister who chairs most of these committees is busy elsewhere or has a plumbing problem at home, the whole country gets to feel his concerns.

The process is repeated at lower levels of the bureaucratic hierarchy until we reach the cigarettes distributors. The lofty aim of the system is to get the general public to share with the civil servants their distractions, concerns, indispositions, and meditations, thereby fusing the people and their big brothers into a wholesome oneness.

Hopefully, Jordan will continue to chart its own humanistic and individualistic path towards the fulfillment of bureaucratic ideals, unmindful and, better still, unaware of world developments. The rest of the world will eventually come around to our way of thinking. Otherwise, it may slip further down the road of crass and gaudy prosperity.

'U.S. tax dollars should not be used to finance killing and torture'

Following is a letter addressed by the Council for the National Interest (CNI) to the American people and signed by Paul Findley and Paul N. McCloskey ex-members of U.S. Congress.

WE are writing today to share some little-known facts and extremely disturbing information with you. Not one American in ten thousand knows the details you are about to learn. Much of this information you will find shocking. Much of it you will find hard to believe. But we assure you that we can document the truth of every word.

The simple, said truth is that U.S. taxpayers are giving an extremist government in the Middle East over \$4 billion a year. Your tax dollars and ours are buying weapons that have killed thousands of innocent people — many of them children.

Even more disturbing, this regime's number one goal is to annex every square inch of land it has taken by military conquest. Not only does this violate American principles, but it is a major destabilising force in an already unstable part of the world.

In order to put this problem into perspective, just think back to last August when President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Over 500,000 American troops were rushed to the Gulf to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait. Thankfully, they sustained few casualties and are now beginning to come home. American patriotism is at an all-time high. But our attention has been so fixed on responding to Mr. Saddam Hussein's crimes that the damage being done to our national interest by another Middle East leader is virtually ignored.

This other leader uses U.S.-donated arms to enforce the virtual imprisonment of two million unarmed civilians. His regime dynamites their homes, closes their schools, tortures innocent women and children, and keeps them under long and cruel curfews.

The leader we are talking about is none other than Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. His government discredits the people he claims to serve and disdains principles of decency and justice that all Americans cherish.

We know these are strong words. And speaking as former

U.S. congressmen with long records of support for Israel this gives us no joy. But how can we condemn one terrorist, and at the same time give billions of dollars of foreign aid to another? This is exactly what is happening.

Most Americans are stunned to discover that Mr. Yitzhak Shamir's long record of terrorism reaches back in history for more than forty years.

Mr. Shamir's brutality is documented by Dr. Israel Shahak, a survivor of a Nazi death camp and now a renowned Israeli professor. Dr. Shahak describes in the January 1991 issue of The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs how... "During the whole of World War II, Shamir waged terrorist warfare against the allied powers fighting Hitler.... In the process, he masterminded the assassination of Lord Moyne, the British minister in charge of the Middle East."

In fact, Mr. Shamir was one of the gang leaders of the terrorist organisation named "Lehi" which ordered the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, chief U.N. mediator for Palestine.

"Nearly half a century later, Mr. Shamir hasn't changed. Now Mr. Shamir heads a regime that kills and abuses Palestinians. He denies them the right to vote, to hold jobs and even closes their schools and universities. It's no wonder that every American who spends any time in the West Bank and Gaza — the occupied territories — is horrified at the prison-like conditions he imposes by force of arms on the Palestinians living there. But more shocking, the U.S. government does more than turn a blind eye to this savage oppression. Our hard-earned tax dollars are even bankrolling it. Few of Mr. Shamir's abuses would be possible without U.S. financial aid. Just look at what our tax dollars are supporting.

Since 1987, more than 900 Palestinians have been killed by Mr. Shamir's cohorts. In fact, many Israeli soldiers refuse to serve in the occupied territories because they won't kill unarmed civilians. And the bad news gets worse. Israel's killing and abuse of children is even more horrifying. A recent 1,000 page report by the Save the Children organisation and the Ford Foundation provides details. A July 15, 1990, report in The Washington Post by

Colman McCarthy, gives these figures:

"Between December 1987 and December 1988, 159 children under the age of 16 were killed by soldiers. The average age was 10." McCarthy continues: "Between 50,000 and 63,000 children were beaten, gassed or wounded. More than half of those slain were not near a demonstration when killed. Even after slaughtering children the Israelis (directed by Shamir) weren't content: soldiers disrupted or interfered with more than half the funerals."

In one ugly incident last June in Gaza, Israeli forces deliberately exploded tear gas canisters plainly labelled "made in U.S." inside a maternity hospital full of expectant mothers and infants.

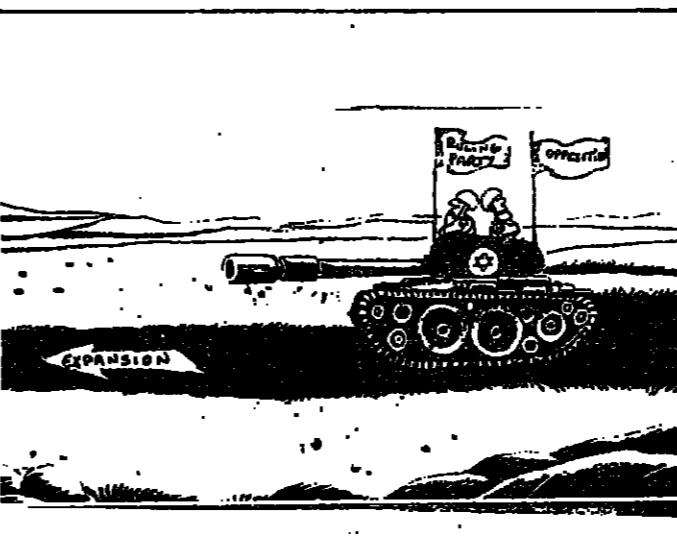
And of course, Mr. Shamir's treatment of the Palestinians has been documented for years. Tens of thousands of Palestinians are imprisoned without any legal process or recourse. Israel's government admits that many are buried with their families.

Yet as soon as the aid was given, Israel defiantly began the construction of 15,000 units for Jewish immigrants outside these borders.

Still worse, Mr. Shamir recently asked President Bush for an astronomical \$10 billion in additional aid to finance the settlement of one million new immigrant Soviet Jews.

But even more shocking is the Shamir government's reaction to American sacrifices to liberate Kuwait and defeat Iraq, the neighbour Israel considers its most dangerous enemy.

We demanded the release of



Soviet Jews and of political prisoners in Central America. We worked to bring down the Berlin wall. We protest South African apartheid.

But when Mr. Shamir's violations occur, America is silent. Israel's powerful U.S. lobby has a virtual stranglehold on the U.S. Congress. No matter how outrageous Israel's behaviour, most congressmen obediently vote for aid. As a result, the U.S. hands over the equivalent of \$1,000 every year for each Israeli man, woman and child. No other nation gets as much U.S. foreign aid as Israel, and no other nation is less grateful.

Last year, for example the Israeli government committed gross deception and fraud against the American taxpayer. Congress approved without question an additional \$400 million in U.S. tax dollar guarantee to Israel under the condition that this money not be used outside Israel's pre-1967 borders. In one ugly incident last June in Gaza, Israeli forces deliberately exploded tear gas canisters plainly labelled "made in U.S." inside a maternity hospital full of expectant mothers and infants. And as soon as the aid was given, Israel defiantly began the construction of 15,000 units for Jewish immigrants outside these borders.

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Israeli officials repeatedly

urged America to attack Iraq. One would think Israel would be grateful when the attack began and give unstinting cooperation.

After all, America has never hesitated to use our troops to protect Israel. When Israel faced missiles from President Saddam, we immediately sent Patriot missile crews to Tel Aviv!

But instead of gratitude, Shamir's government puts a huge price on cooperation — demanding \$3 billion from the U.S. Treasury to stay out of a war that Israel badly wanted us to win.

Included was \$1 billion for

terrorism it lost during the war, \$1 billion for lost economic output,

\$250 million for lost export orders, and \$30 million for damages caused by Iraqi missiles.

Almost every nation on earth suffered in some way from the war, but only Israel sent America a bill.

Still more disturbing is Mr. Shamir's callous disregard for American lives. In the book, "Way Of Deception," Victor Ostrovsky, a former Israeli intelligence agent, documents that Israel knew ahead of time that the U.S.arine barracks in Beirut might be bombed in 1983 but refused to warn our forces.

Incredibly, Mr. Shamir's government overruled a request that our forces be alerted. As a result, 241 U.S. Marines were killed in a truck-bomb massacre. Tel Aviv said it refused to warn our forces because Israel was "not there to protect Americans."

CNI supports the two-state solution for the Israelis and the Palestinians — the solution endorsed by many Israeli military leaders and members of parliament. This is the sensible answer that will allow Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace with each other.

It is logical and fair for everyone. CNI is committed to a uniform policy of decency and fairness for all peoples in the Middle East. America's condemnation of President Saddam Hussein's terrorism must extend also to the terrorism carried out by Israel's government.

The United States must oppose and speak out against Mr. Shamir's defiance of United Nations resolutions and his abuse of innocent people with the same determination as we condemn Saddam Hussein's.

CNI's number priority is to provide the grassroots support so that Congress will suspend aid until Israel stops violating human rights and blocking the U.S. peace process.

In fact, the Israel of today is radically different from the dream of decency and justice that brought Israel into existence in 1948. Mr. Shamir's regime has corrupted the ideals of the Jewish people.

With the demise of the cold war, the Middle East is the greatest threat to world peace. Your support of CNI will make the world a safer place for not only ourselves, but for generations to come.

Why not Mario for president?

By John King
The Associated Press

pressing discontent with Mr. Bush's seeming preoccupation with foreign affairs and are looking for a president who has a good track record on domestic issues — say, a popular governor of a major state.

Add to the economic trends a late-starting Democratic race that has no clear front-runner and a field that many think lacks a candidate of the stature needed to defeat Mr. Bush.

There's more. Fund-raising has been tough for all six major Democratic candidates. It wouldn't be for Mr. Cuomo because of his New York base and national name recognition. And

with Jesse Jackson sitting out the race, Mr. Cuomo could appeal to many in Jackson's liberal coalition.

So, as they await Mr. Cuomo's decision on whether to run, which could come this week, many activists in both parties see all the reasons for a Cuomo run.

The governor on Monday dropped hints about his plans but he touched on the themes that have many in the party hoping for a Cuomo candidacy.

"The president will not be able to deny the obvious evidence all around us, and that is that this economy is failing ever deeper," Mr. Cuomo said during an appearance in New York. "God helps those who help themselves."

Washington doesn't help anybody."

Mr. Cuomo's shadow has always loomed over the 1992 Democratic race and his presence became

New Projects to improve life in Wadi Mousa

Trust seeks to protect Petra's heritage

By Aileen Ramayyan

Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA, capital of the Nabataean Kingdom until 106 A.D. and afterwards a centre of trade routes up till the seventh century, was virtually forgotten in history until finally rediscovered by a Swiss traveller in 1812.

Today, however, Petra is the most famous archaeological site in Jordan and registered as a World Heritage Site by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The entire greater Petra region in Wadi Mousa is a microcosm of human civilization. Remains from the Paleolithic, and Neolithic periods have been excavated. Hellenistic, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, early and middle Islamic, Crusader,

Ottoman and contemporary periods have enshrined it with a legacy of 2,000 years of human settlement and activity.

The rose-red city of Petra fascinates all its visitors. Tourists make it a point to see as much as they can of the city carved out of the rock, while Jordanians take pride that such a marvellous treasure of history is in their country.

The bad news is that time takes its toll, and the ancient monuments are endangered by natural and man-made hazards among which are: Erosion caused by natural elements; damage by seismic activity; vehicles, and environmental degradation due to insufficient services to handle the thousands of visitors every year.

Does anybody care? Fortunately, yes. A group

of Jordanians, who sincerely care and believe that Petra should be protected and preserved for the enjoyment and pride of present and future generations, have founded a society — The Petra National Trust.

Founding members of the Trust are Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is patron and honorary chairperson, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Ra'ad, Dr. Raaf Abu Jaber, Ms. Suha Shoman, Mr. Rami Khouri and many others.

Working closely with various concerned institutions, especially the Ministry of Tourism, the Department of Antiquities, Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan, the Petra National Trust (PNT) has embarked on a carefully studied plan with diverse aims, ranging from the preservation of antiquities to archaeological research and socio-economic development of the Wadi Mousa region.

Some of the work initiated by the PNT is already underway. The reason not many people have heard about the Trust is because the PNT has not publicised on a large scale ... yet.

"We have planned for 1992 to be the year for the official fundraising and membership drive," PNT Executive Director Omar Hayek told the Jordan Times.

"There will be a planned local and international campaign to acquaint people with the diverse heritage and the contemporary concerns of the Petra region," Mr. Hayek said.

Currently, the PNT's funding depends on membership fees and donations from Jordanians and foreigners alike.

The most important single attribute that distinguishes the PNT is its interest not only in preserving the antiquities, but the entire culture and natural environment through the development of the Wadi Mousa region in general.

During the past year for example, tourism to Petra

came to a halt because of the Gulf crisis. The Trust initiated a fundraising campaign to provide temporary employment for over 150 Petra area families who were totally dependent on tourists for their income.

The PNT is trying to launch income-generating projects to benefit the residents of the Wadi Mousa region.

A project is now underway to renovate an old marketplace in the centre of Wadi Mousa and to turn it into a handicrafts and arts centre that would generate income for the residents and provide additional attractions for Jordanians and tourists alike.

The PNT has also helped secure government approval to divert 20 per cent of entrance fees at Petra to the Wadi Mousa municipality for use in local projects.

"In less than one year, Wadi Mousa will get an almost complete facelift. There will be dramatic changes," Mr. Hayek said.

The PNT is working closely with architects and planners to study the possibility of beautifying and preserving the character of Wadi Mousa and the main road to Petra.

The Trust has also consulted the Ministry of Tourism to define an architectural code and standards which would apply to construction in the area to preserve the traditional character of the region.

Concerning the more urgent need of preserving the antiquities, a project is now underway to study the brittle Nubian sandstone of Petra which is in danger of erosion from natural elements, urban expansion and the effect of thousands of visitors each year.

"Heavy rains in 1989 caused part of the upper facade of the Palace Tomb to collapse. Therefore serious international effort is required to prevent future damage by the consolidation and preservation of the monuments," Mr. Hayek noted.

"We would like to see more serious interest from a professional-architectural perspective to protect the

vulnerable monuments," he added.

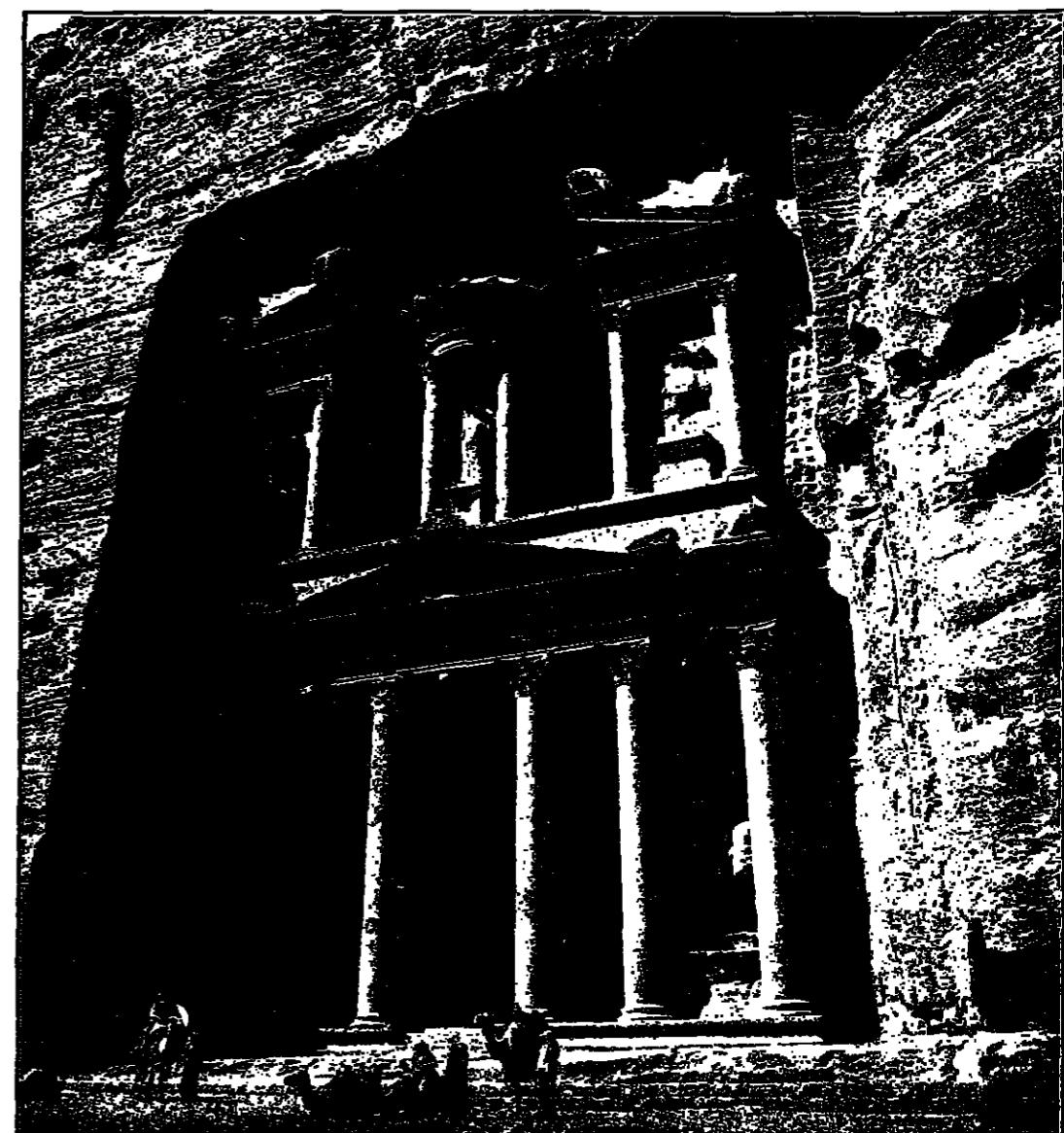
In this regard the PNT has already commissioned a preliminary study on options for consolidating or repaving the Siq — the crack between the rocks that leads to the old city. The PNT has also worked with the Department of Antiquities to prohibit cars from using the Siq, and a new road has been built leading into Petra from the Umm Salih area for use by service or emergency vehicles only.

Another project currently underway is a survey of the area surrounding Petra to preserve it as a national park, especially since excavations have shown archaeological remains from earlier periods.

The PNT, in cooperation with the Department of Land and Surveys and the Department of Antiquities, is conducting a survey after which a map will be prepared for rezoning and reorganising the area as a first step to transform it into the Petra National Park, Mr. Hayek said.

"Most of our work is coordination and cooperation with the various concerned organisations and institutions to ensure the development of the Wadi Mousa region, while preserving the antiquities and the historical and cultural heritage," Mr. Hayek pointed out.

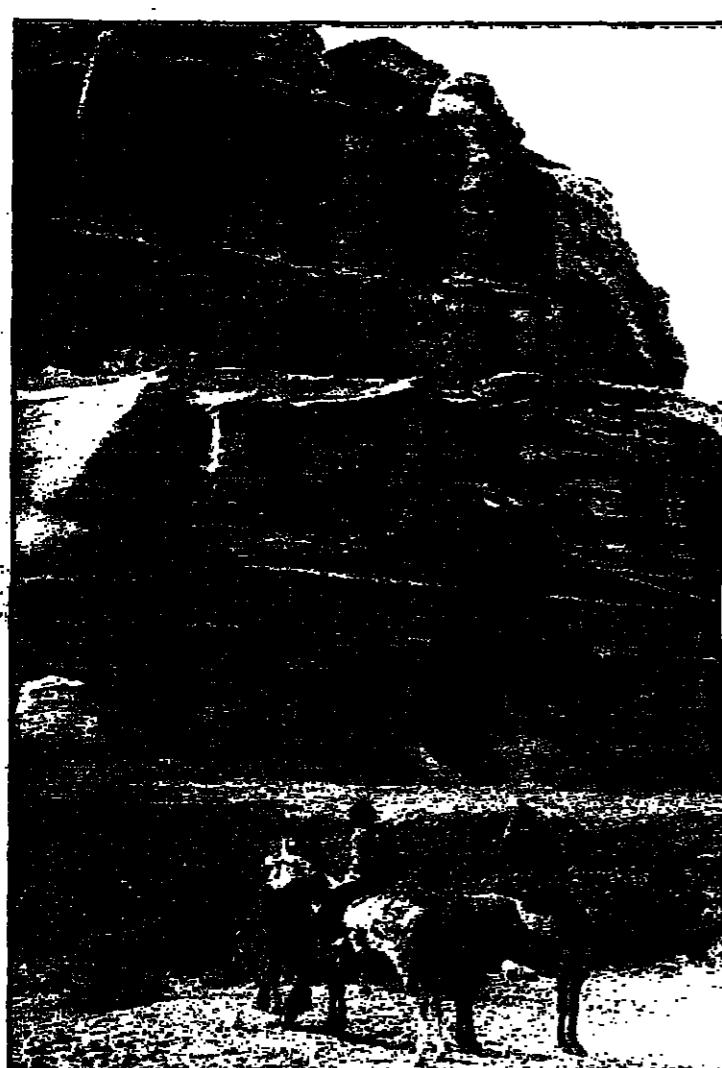
The PNT, through the office of Her Majesty Queen Noor, is coordinating with UNESCO on the provision of



The Treasury at the rose-red city

technical aid to undertake a long-term masterplan study of the entire Petra region.

The study would serve as a basis for the long-term development of the region including the antiquities, the natural environment and tourism services.



Obelisk tomb at Petra

Babushka's burden — taking care of the family

They spend endless hours shopping, cleaning, waiting in line. Grandmothers, or "babushkas," have shouldered the burden for years, and still do. The writer takes a look at how one "babushka" holds her family together.

By Wendy Sloane

The Associated Press

KIEV, USSR — Lydia Patra rises early to begin hours of food shopping for herself, her daughter and grandmother. Her only companion on the daily treks is a laminated cloth bag on wheels.

"Every day I leave the apartment at 8 a.m. to buy eggs, but there aren't any," said Lydia, 74, checking her basket, or cheese pie, in the oven.

When she goes to the crowded bread store, her daughter Lena, 41, is asleep on the pull-out couch in the living room. While Lydia waits in line to buy milk, her 18-year-old granddaughter, Lika, still snoozes in the bedroom the two of them share.

By the time she returns, both are gone: Lena, a divorcee, to her job teaching Russian to foreign students at the Civil Aviation Engineering Institute, and Lika to Kiev State University, where she studies English translation and Japanese.

At the end of the day, they

are tired and expect Lydia to have a home-cooked dinner ready.

"I do something around the house," Lena insisted, eating a weekend lunch of spicy fried eggplant and tomatoes with beef, which Lydia had prepared. "I made cookies once. They were delicious."

What were supposed to be Lydia's golden years are filled with the daily grind of making sure her family has enough to eat. As the economy continues to deteriorate and a harsh winter threatens, Lydia and other grandmothers keep their families going.

The grandmother, or babushka, often is the backbone of the household. Because most women must work to make family ends meet, only the babushka can spend the hours in line required to obtain the ingredients of a decent meal.

Most men refuse to do household chores and baby sitters are virtually unheard of in the Soviet Union. Many elderly women raise their

grandchildren, and sometimes their great-grandchildren as well.

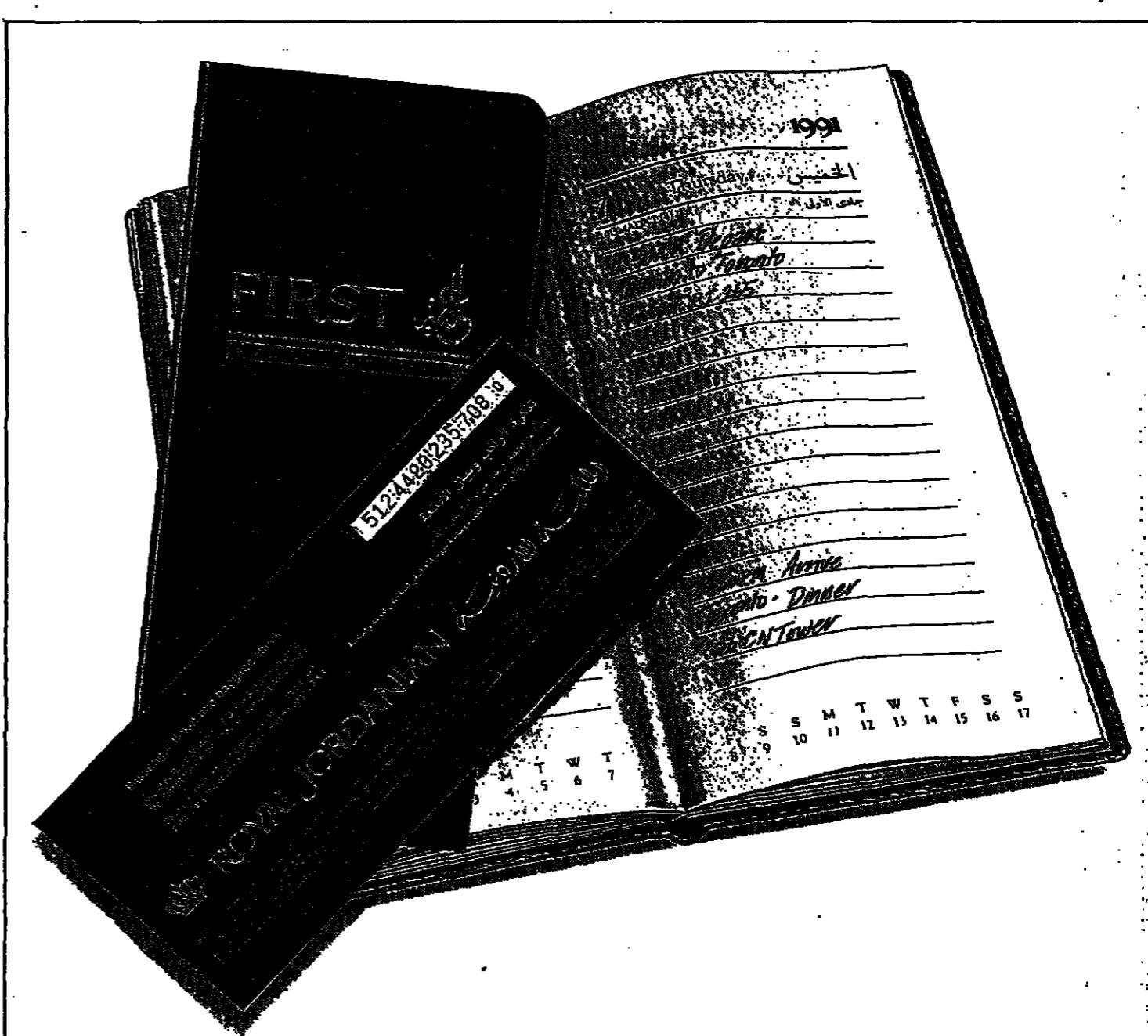
It is not uncommon to see elderly women in their drab headscarves shuffling along the street carrying heavy, bulging sacks from a day's shopping.

Lydia, a heavyset former math teacher whose husband died nearly 10 years ago, has had two heart attacks in recent years and was hospitalized not long ago. In spite of her poor health, she still goes to the shops every day.

On one trip, she spent nearly one-fifth of her monthly pension for 11.7 kilogrammes (26 pounds) of potatoes, which she had to roll home in her wheeled bag. One night, she went out late to a subway station to give a package of butter and cheese to an acquaintance, who promised to deliver it to her 48-year-old son in Moscow.

"He told me it was hard to find butter there," she explained with a stoic shrug.

The daily quests are becoming even more difficult. The government raised prices drastically in April, tenfold for some ordinary items, and the family now buys nothing



TORONTO. SAME DAY

Now, Royal Jordanian flies direct from Amman to Toronto.

On November 7th, Royal Jordanian adds another Maple leaf to its existing Canadian operation — Montreal.

Fly every Thursday on our luxurious TriStar from Amman to Toronto, arriving the same evening to pursue your planned activities.

Royal Jordanian, one of the most dynamic airlines is always adding new destinations to its network for your comfort and convenience.

ROYAL JORDANIAN



Hairdressers

By Maha Addasi

Have you ever noticed how protective women are of their hair secrets. A woman could be at gun-point and the most she would admit to explain her newly acquired blonde strands would be, "the sun." if you press further, she would rather swallow a cyanide pill than tell you the truth.

And this applies to brands of hairsprays, creams, and of course, the best kept secret, the hairdresser's name, which is the entire reason for secrecy.

Why?

Well, it is not unusual that people have 'slight' communication problems with their hairdressers. At the slightest provocation as to ask for a trim, bolts of lightning illuminate the idea-zone of the hairdresser's brain who proceeds to tell you he or she has "just the hairstyle for you."

The result is often an unrecognisable being looking back at you from the mirror, such as a blonde with hair-texture competing with that of a broom's in place of a once-upon-a-time brunette with gleaming hair.

Most women go through periods during which they hunt for the "good" hairdresser, fully equipped with hats, scarfs, and brown paper bags to camouflage minor disaster, during the hunt. Don't expect them to hand you the hairdresser's name on a silver platter. You must locate the place, the "hard way."

Of course they do not come right out and refuse to give you the name of the hairdresser. They just seem to get memory lapses just when you ask them. They do, however, recall parts of the directions:

"It is located on the second right after the steepest hill in Amman." That's all you get. As for the rest of the information, you have to investigate on your own. Try and pinpoint who it is and you will get a stream of I don't know.

"Is the hairdresser male or female," you ask shrewdly.

"I don't know," comes the answer.

It may sound almost impossible to locate a place with



such little information, but according to one hairdresser, it can be done. "One customer's husband found me in 30 minutes flat, with a gun," he said. "But I swear I didn't know she was trying to spite him when she asked for her long, beautiful hair to 'go'."

But to those women who never seem to find a good hairdresser, do not despair because there is a solution. Just do what men do. They find a hairdresser; any hairdresser will do. And they train him to cut their hair the way they like it. And from hence forth, they readily and faithfully, cross the seven seas and climb the seven mountains to follow that hairdresser. Even if these mountains are the steepest in Amman.

Box full of wishes

By E. Yaghi

After the Friday prayer, the men congregated up on the roof of a drab gray house in which lived the groom. It was a nice October day where white wisps of cotton candy clouds oozed across a pale sky. The last remnants of a fading moon lingered for a while as men bunched themselves in small groups around trays stacked with Mensaf (a tangy meat-topped rice dish) while the aroma of a cooked yoghurt sauce tempted their patience.

Inside the drab house, also gray and bare except for some bright hand sewn pictures, the groom's sister prepared her dress for the great event. "Ah," she sighed. "At last Nabeel is getting married. How wonderful. I'm so happy for him!"

She looked in her mirror and saw her dark coffee eyes staring back. "If only I could marry too. But who will ever choose one such as me? Yes, my hair shines. It's so black it almost looks dark blue and it is smooth and fine but here my beauty ends, for in contrast to my hair, I'm the hunchback of my neighbourhood. I'm deformed and no one cares how pure my heart may be. Instead, people turn away in disgust as though my shape were unforgivable and something of my doing!"

A tear escaped her dark eyes and somersaulted down her cheek onto the turquoise satin dress she hugged in her arms for comfort. "Mama taught us always to be brave and not care what other people think. If only Papa were alive to see Nabeel on his wedding day, he would be so proud. Dear Papa, I miss him so. He was one of few who loved me for my mind and heart!"

"Janeen," her mother called. "Didn't you finish dressing yet?" The women are coming soon and you must be ready. Hurry up!"

"Yes, mother, I'm coming. Don't worry!" Janeen yelled back and she hurried to slip on her fine looking dress that failed to conceal her deformity. She fantasized she was Cinderella going to the ball.

"If only I had a box full of wishes, then I'd first wish to be normal. Second, I'd wish I didn't have the voice of a child and the body of a freak!" She sighed again as she put her last touch of pink makeup on her doll-like face.

She timidly opened the door of her room and peeked about then she tiptoed out all dressed in turquoise with matching shoes hunched over herself. Most of the women ignored her as they heaved and panted up long twisting rounds of stairs. She saw her brother Nabeel dressed in a black suit fidgeting nervously at the end of the hall. "How's my beautiful Janeen today?" he asked as she approached. "Happy for my wedding?"

She managed a sparkle in her clouded eyes and said, "Of course. I wish you all the bliss and joy in the world and only crave that there was a little to spare for me! But hurry now, the women are coming. Go up on the roof with the men until its time for you to go and get your bride!" And she ushered him away and went to help her mother in the kitchen.

"There you are Janeen. Remember what I told you. Don't slouch around trying to hide. Be proud of yourself.

Your body is just a shell that covers what you really are. I don't want you hanging around me. Go and greet our guests. I want to hear music and hear you singing and see you dancing! Your brother's getting married and its no time for feeling sorry for yourself or long faces. Your sisters are already mixing with the guests. Go out and join them."

So she left the kitchen determined to make the best of her brother's wedding. She searched for her two sisters. She heard her sister Heyam singing and then saw her dancing with her other sister Randa. "Oh, Heyam looks so beautiful today. She is a Cinderella. But Randa's pathetic. Her hunchback which is less than mine is showing. How does she find the courage to act normal? At least Heyam isn't deformed like us."

Women got up and danced with the groom's sisters. They took turns. The older women, their thobes decorated with intricate and colourful cross stitch, waved their headresses to the beat of a loud drum and twirled around lightfooted and cheerful. They were then replaced by younger girls who gyrated themselves in tune to songs as girls shyly spread on their faces. Heyam, the only normal sister, would dance for a while and then stop and clap, coaxing the other women to continue clapping and singing. Randa, less deformed than Janeen, danced for a while and then disappeared. Now, it was Janeen's turn. Heyam grabbed her arm and pulled her towards the middle of the circle. Janeen began to dance and pretend that she was the same as every one else. She almost believed herself until she saw two eyed little girls staring at her in astonishment, but she couldn't give up now, not just yet.

Her face grew red and she finally stopped for breath. She had now gained some confidence and roamed the room encouraging her audience to participate. She tried not to hear snickers of mocking laughter buzz behind her back. "They're not better than I," she said to herself. "I can't help how I am. If they can't accept me for what I am then I feel sorry for them."

One of the older women stood up and hugged her. "Come on," she said, "Let's go and get the bride!"

"No thanks," Janeen insisted, overwhelmed. "I'll wait here and stay with those who want to remain behind."

It was dark by the time honking taxis entered the narrow dirt street that led to Janeen's house. Out on the main road, young men sang and danced circles around the groom. Janeen limped up to the roof as fast as she could to catch a glimpse of her new sister-in-law and watch her brother as his friends hoisted him up on their shoulders. As the bride was part carried and part pushed by the wave of relatives that engulfed her, the bridal party wound its way up the narrow passage all the way to the drab roof which was to chair the host of onlookers. But at first Janeen's didn't see or hear the oncoming party. "If only I had a box full of wishes then I would wish to be normal, not a grotesque beast that people make fun of. I wish I could become somebody's bride too and live happily ever after," she whispered to herself as one tear slipped away from her clouded eyes and fell like a silver drop of dew on her soft satin turquoise dress which glittered under the glow of a smiling silent moon.

November birthstone

THE TOPAZ

Family — Crystal of fluosilicate of aluminium.

Colour — Yellow-gold, honey-yellow, deep sherry, pale brown; and, rarely, pink, red, and blue.

Geographical sources — Australia, Brazil, Mexico, USSR and the United States of America.

Legendary background — The most likely origin of the name topaz is its derivation from the old Sanskrit word, tapas, meaning fire. In ancient times it was said to ward off epilepsy and asthma. As a cure for insomnia the stones were first steeped in water to make a drink. In the Middle Ages it was thought that a topaz placed in a bowl of boiling water would chill it on the instant — the opposite to the ruby which was believed to make water boil. Oscar Wilde described the colours of the topaz ... "as yellow as the eyes of a tiger, topazes as pink as the eyes of a wood pigeon, and green topazes that are as the eyes of a cat."

Qualities — Faithfulness, true friendship, and loyalty.

Jewellery interpretations — The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, owned an ancient ring set with a topaz, and on it was inscribed a prophecy guaranteeing good luck to the wearer. In the early eighteenth century necklaces were in the form of a collar, with elaborate pendants, made of topaz ribbons and flowers. This gemstone was very popular in early Victorian times. Fingerring was fashionable and pink topaz, combined with other stones like the green chrysoprase, had settings of leaves, flowers and scallop shells, stamped from a light metal.

Today — A large square topaz or cut cabochon (dome), looks particularly arresting in a broad, polished gold setting.

Notable November birthdays — Martin Luther, Sir Winston Churchill

In the case of this particular birthstone, the CITRINE can be worn as an alternative. Precious topaz is seldom used in modern jewellery because of its increasing rarity.

JTV Channel 2 Weekly Preview

Thursday, Nov. 7

8:30 The Simpsons.



Samantha (Alyssa Milano, left) Who's The Boss on Tuesday at 8:30; and Mona (Katherine Helmond) in 8:30.

Dad

Starring: Jack Lemmon and Ted Danson

Loyalty and deep compassion are the best medicine to fight cancer and old age.

Friday, Nov. 8

8:30 Coach

Haiden resorts to lying to get a wealthy lady to donate; he almost has it made, but the dog ruins everything.

9:10 Shakespeare

King Lear

10:00 News In English

10:20 W.L.O.U.

Mother Nature's Son

The news director at Channel 2 is jailed for not revealing the name of the reporter who broadcast a story on police brutality.

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Lookalike

Starring: Melissa Gilbert and Diane Ladd

Sunday, Nov. 10

8:30 The Golden Girls

Great Expectation

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Sins of Castle Cove

Mariam Howard, a young married woman, is found murdered at her apartment. Jessica investigates the murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 This Man ... This Woman

Monday, Nov. 11

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 Assignment

The Assignment team visits three nuclear plants .. two in Czechoslovakia and one in Bulgaria where safety records are not encouraging.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

The Descent

Tuesday, Nov. 12

8:30 Who's The Boss

The Kid

Tony and Angela must decide if they are ready for the challenge of raising a child when Billy's grandmother can no longer care for him and asks Tony to take him in.

9:10 Our House

Fifth Beatle

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Nov. 13

8:30 Note And Allie

Young chip has a very big problem: How to hide the fact that he has failed his exams at school.

9:10 Cosmopolitan

A personal Voyage

Harmony of the worlds

Carl Sagan talks about observations that were made in the 17th century which marked the beginning of the modern science of astronomy.

10:00 News In English

10:23 Equal Justice

The Price Of Justice

The price of justice is always high and its implementation is more important than appearing political personalities.

10:20 Our House

Fifth Beatle

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Thursday, Nov. 7

1659 — Peace of the Pyrenees is reached between Spain and France.

1733 — Spain and France sign Treaty of Escorial and form alliance against England.

1807 — Russia breaks off relations with England.

1876 — Russia prepares for war against Turkey.

1920 — Serious famine breaks out in China.

1939 — Sovereigns of Belgium and Holland approach Britain's King George VI advocating peace with Germany.

1956 — British and French declare ceasefire in Egypt, but Britain says it will evacuate troops only on arrival of United Nations Emergency Force.

1966 — Chinese diplomats walk out of Bolshevik anniversary celebration in Moscow after hearing Soviet criticism of Peking government.

1973 — United States and Egypt announce they will resume diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors.

1975 — India's supreme court reverses Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's conviction on two electoral offenses.

1981 — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov says USSR will never allow another nation to achieve military superiority.

1987 — Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba is removed from office by his prime minister who says 84-year-old leader is too senile to rule.

1988 — Powerful earthquake just inside China's mountainous southern border kills 600 people.

1989 — Anti-Communist demonstrators, striking workers and clashes between police and protesters mar

Soviet Union's celebration of its 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

1990 — Shots fired near Mikhail Gorbachev during Soviet Union's Revolution Day parade; Irish voters elect radical feminist to presidency.

1991

Ann-Margret at 50 — Popping her jaw and drying her eyes



Ann-Margret

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ann-Margret, who up until now has been seated in a dignified fashion, clad in an elegant black turban and matching pants and boots, leans forward and opens her mouth wide.

Pop silence. Crunch. "Hear that?" Ann-Margret says and dissolves into gales of laughter. "That's my jaw."

That's her jaw in the aftermath of the near-fatal spill she took off a stage while performing in Lake Tahoe in 1972. She fell 22 feet (nearly 7 metres), breaking her jaw and leaving her face partly numb.

For anyone else, it would be a life-defining incident. But for Ann-Margret, it was all in a day's work — she was back on stage 10 weeks later. "My dad had terminal can-

cer and I was bound and determined to make him think I was going to be OK," she says. "So I got right back on stage even though I could barely move my mouth open at the time."

That kind of grit, however, has not been part of her public image.

She's been stuck with the tag "sex kitten" despite her enduring career as a singer, dancer and Academy Award-nominated actress. She's made 40 feature films. She's 50 years old now, and even though her dancer's discipline and prominent Swedish cheekbones have kept her looking young, the term "sex cat" would be more appropriate.

But on meeting her, the movie-magazine monikers fade fast. Though she's been a star for 30 years, Ann-Margret conducts herself as if she were your next-door neighbour.

"We're very reclusive," she says, describing the life she shares in Los Angeles with her husband and manager of 24 years, Roger Smith. "We don't go out a lot. We have friends we've had for 30 years. We have a smorgasbord every Christmas Eve. We lead a pretty normal life."

In the course of a rushed interview, barely 40 minutes, Ann-Margret will touch on subjects so diverse that some make her laugh and some make her cry.

Her co-stars have included many legends — Bette Davis, Jack Nicholson, Kirk Douglas, Bing Crosby and Steve McQueen. But when she remembers Elvis Presley, with whom she starred in *Viva Las Vegas*, or John Wayne, tears come to her eyes.

"Elvis and I saw each other for awhile," Ann-Margret says slowly. "Then we re-

mained friends for 14 years. I always knew his flowers because he sent them in the shape of a guitar."

She remembers Wayne for his flowers, too.

"He was so great to my parents," she says. "When daddy died, he sent a bouquet of flowers."

Ann-Margret is no professional waif. She does not wear her sensitivity on her sleeve. It's just there, mixed in with some steel.

"I can be very, very emotional," she says. "That's just who I am. And I never get over anyone's death. They live with me, in my heart."

On Oct. 22, Ann-Margret made her New York debut at Radio City Music Hall, the first place she visited as a six-year-old fresh from the tiny Swedish village of Valsjöbyn. Up until then, she had been reluctant to accept engagements in New York because they would have re-

quired her to be away from her family in California for too long a period of time.

Radio City was more than just another venue for her.

Bye Bye Birdie, the movie that made her a star, had its world premiere at Radio City in April 1963. People lined the street to see the film and it broke a 30-year music hall record.

"I took my parents to the premiere," she remembers. "We all looked up at the marquee with my name on it and there were tears in our eyes."

Her mother, now 72, was in the audience when Ann-Margret took the stage with 40 of her own dancers for the six-day show last week, as well as the Rockettes. The date was also her father's birthday. Her father died in 1973.

Smith, who has been accused in the past of exerting a

Svengali-like hold on his wife, was there as well. Smith starred in the TV series *77 Sunset Strip* before giving up his acting career to manage Ann-Margret's career.

To hear her describe it, Smith is the brains and the brawn behind the artist, allowing Ann-Margret the luxury of nurturing a long career without having to fight a lot of battles.

But she's quick to point out that it's a partnership. Smith, has myasthenia gravis, the same neuromuscular disease that caused the death of Aristotle Onassis. He's in remission now but his condition could change at any time.

Ann-Margret said her future plans all revolve around Smith's health.

"It's all up to him," she says. "It's very simple. He's my family and my family is all that matters. It makes it very simple."

Salsa music — Japan's latest hot export

By David Thurber

The Associated Press

TOKYO — When a New York agent first heard their demonstration tape, he refused to believe that a Japanese band could play salsa so well. Four years later, *Orquesta de la Luz* is attracting large audiences worldwide.

"Until recently, not many non-Spanish people played Latin music," said vocalist Carlos Kanno. "But it's a wonderful culture, and the music deserves to be played around the world."

The Japanese band's debut album went gold a month after its release last year in the United States, then went platinum. One track, *Salsa Caliente Del Japon* (*Hot Salsa From Japan*), topped the billboard Latin chart for 10 weeks.

"Don't be surprised that we're Japanese," she sings in

Spanish. "There are no borders, no barriers. This music is for all."

Several band members say they became interested in salsa after Latin percussionist Tito Puente visited Japan in 1979 and lectured on Latin jazz. Pente, an idol for the group, plays on one song on their second album.

After it formed in 1984, the band began playing at small Japanese clubs, "but we couldn't get anyone to come," Kanno said. "There were times when there were more people in the band than in the audience."

They saved money for years to pay their way to New York, home of salsa — literally "sauce," a danceable blend of Latin music styles — and first played a tiny club in Queens.

"We had tourist visas, so

we couldn't take any instruments with us when we left Japan. We showed up at the club an hour before the concert with no instruments. The promoter was shocked," Kanno recalled.

They managed to borrow old instruments, including a keyboard with peeling keys, pianist Satoru Shiomoya said.

"The audience looked as if it didn't know what to expect," he remembered. "I thought we would be booted off the stage. But with the first note, the audience was on its feet, cheering. We couldn't believe it."

With typical Japanese precision, the four-man percussion section keeps the audience moving with complex rhythms, balanced by a smooth four-man brass line.

All the members, especially clear-voiced Nora, convey

a love for their adopted music.

"They're doing excellently for being Japanese and for the short time they've been together," Latin jazz percussionist Poncho Sanchez said on a recent tour in Japan.

"For a long time, when salsa was popular elsewhere in the world, it wasn't here. But things have changed in the past year. *Orquesta de la Luz* has helped a lot," he said.

"Still, they're going to have to live the music a little more on their feet, cheering. We couldn't believe it."

More Japanese are becoming salsa fans, but want the music to be more than a passing trend.

"In Japan, music is fashion, and salsa has become a current fashion," Kanno said. "Japanese still don't decide by themselves

what kind of music they really like, and instead have their tastes formed by the media."

But that's beginning to change, he said.

Other Japanese salsa bands are sprouting up, and they also hope their music will affect Japanese society by introducing it to Latin culture, in which music is more a part of everyday life.

"In Japan there aren't many amateur bands that continue playing together just for enjoyment. We want to create that kind of culture," said Yuzo Suenaga, a post office worker who plays with the group *Cuba Libre*.

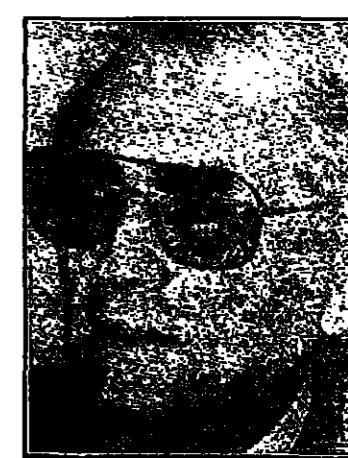
"We've been lucky," Kanno said. "We can always play overseas if salsa loses popularity in Japan."

"But we think it's important to live in Japan and play our music here."

Gregory Peck makes 56th film

By Hillel Italie

The Associated Press



Gregory Peck

"It's easier to be a big guy," he insisted, "because the script does so much for you, because it informs the audience and the other characters that when you come on you're going to do something intimidating, threatening, scary, terrorising maybe."

"I don't mean to defend my way of working against any other way, but in my point of view it's harder to make the good guy interesting. He's liable to be dull unless to you invest a lot of feeling in it. Maybe I was successful in those parts because I was able to make an emotional identification."

"Well, it ain't over yet."

"Tall and silver-haired, with dark, imposing eyebrows, the 75-year-old Peck is perhaps more handsome now than in his days as a leading man. He looked well in gray slacks and a dark blue blazer. His face has filled out without obscuring the lean, smooth features of his youth."

His new film, his 56th, is *Other People's Money*, and if it had been made 50 years ago the part of kindly company executive Jorgy Jorgenson might have been filled by Walter Huston or Lionel Barrymore, veteran actors whose presence communicated warmth and integrity. Peck has that stature now,

Berlin's cult cabaret adapts to united Germany

By Mark Heinrich

Reuter

BERLIN — It used to enjoy underground fame for dodging Communist censors with metaphorical skits like "the people's listen and look company," code for the security police no one dared lampoon by name.

In a new era of free speech, the Distel Cabaret Theatre has bolstered its satirical salvos with real names, facts and a lot more research. And it's paid off — shows are once again sold out and full of laughs, like the Distel of old.

Steeped in a Berlin burlesque tradition immortalised by the Hollywood movie "Cabaret," the Distel (This) has evolved from a careful tweaker of east German Communist orthodoxy to a withering critic of the follies of German unification.

"In two hours at the Distel you can learn more about this

growing together of (east and west) Germans than by reading the best newspapers," Distel Theatre director Gisele Oechelshauser said in an interview with Reuters.

"We speak to all of Germany today but from the perspective of our roots as east Germans," she said of the ensemble that has performed in a shabby little theatre opposite east Berlin's Friedrichstrasse Railway Station since 1953.

"Our goal is to give Ossies (east Germans) the spirit to face the burden of their past and the challenge of the future," added Ms. Oechelshauser, 48, a 25-year cabaret veteran whose politics are like most east German artists, left-liberal.

Buoyed by tours of West German cities and television appearances, the Distel has begun its maiden season as a privatised company to rave

reviews. Special shows are planned in London and Oxford, England in late November.

The Distel is one of the few east German cultural institutions to flourish after reunification. Homegrown theatre, moviemaking and media, shorn of subsidies, have been shattered by an influx of Western competitors.

An apt title for the Distel's new programme, spoken in thick working-class Berlin accents, might be "Post-Unification Blues." Excerpts from topical numbers, with choice one-liners:

"Economic collapse in east Germany. 'The only thing we produce any more is dismal statistics.'

"East German attitudes towards employment. 'In the old days my buddy and I were conscientious objectors. We refused to work.'

"East Germans desperately

try to shed their socialist skin. East German wife to husband's west German mentor: 'Will it be enough if he throws out his 36 volumes of Marx-Engels works?'

"East Germans as second-class citizens. Two prostitutes wait in west Berlin grumbling why they get paid only 60 per cent of what their western sisters command."

East Germany's 1989 democratic revolution, which spawned unification, forced sweeping changes in the Distel's act.

After years of being able to stage up to 400 shows with the same script, the Distel suddenly had to rework its material almost daily to keep pace with the dizzying tumult of events and preserve its credibility.

"Everything said on stage could now be read in newspapers. We had to do much more homework," said Ms. Oechelshauser.

Under Communist rule, the Distel survived as licensed court jesters, as British author John Ardagh put it, only because its audience was tiny — mainly party

officials, intellectuals and privileged foreigners like diplomats.

It was barred from television and tickets were hard to get.

Party culture officials vetted scripts in advance. But Ms. Oechelshauser said actors could confound the censor with clever figurative wordplays and improvised body language.

The audience gradually trickled back.

"Sixty per cent are Wessies (west Germans) now. And we recovered Ossi fans who realise they are cheating themselves if they shut out their own culture. Plus, tickets are sold at cut rates to the unemployed," Ms. Oechelshauser recalled.

Under Communist rule, the Distel survived as licensed court jesters, as British author John Ardagh put it, only because its audience was tiny — mainly party

Oechelshauser.

Distel attendance sank as east Germans' attentions turned to material survival in new competitive world.

Financially pressed as state subsidies evaporated, the Distel slashed an inflated staff of writers, actors, musicians, singers and technicians from 65 to 20 raised ticket prices.

The audience gradually trickled back.

"We were forbidden to be direct. But actors and audience all knew the daily lies imposed by ideology. Life here was play-acting on a grand scale, so we had great fun bamboozling the censor," Ms. Oechelshauser recalled.

One memorable sketch in early 1989 dealt with growing popular pressure for western travel. It had actors going to the west with a secret police minder who ended up having to play the rear end of a pantomime horse.

It is a Rembrandt.

Christian Von Holst, deputy director of the Stuttgart Gallery, said in a telephone interview: "In Stuttgart, it is a Rembrandt."

Von Holst said the way art historians determine attribution could change. An artist's body of work may shrink under assault by the experts, he said. "Then comes a new generation of art historians, and they say, 'you were too strict.'"

"It's a pity we couldn't have this painting," for the exhibit, Mr. Kelch said. "All (major) students of Rembrandt are represented except De Gelder. ... the gallery in Stuttgart still is convinced

it is a Rembrandt.

Accompanying it is a long explanation of how de-attribution followed analysis of style and scientific research.

X-ray techniques can reveal dark pigments in the underpainting, showing how a work was altered, redesigned and built in stages.

These are invisible signs of an artist's style that help the experts decide the identity of the painter.

Like the Chicago painting,

many former Rembrandts were signed with his name. Mr. Kelch said those who commissioned the canvases probably knew they weren't getting the master's work.

"It was normal in the 17th century," he said. "He was like others who had huge workshops with pupils who learned his style, worked for a while in his style and were engaged in huge production of Rembrandt paintings. It had to do with the great popularity of Rembrandt in his lifetime."

Mr. Kelch said he expected the Rembrandt research project in Amsterdam to reduce the number of confirmed Rembrandt paintings eventually to about 240.

"It's a big drop from the 740 cited in a 1921 Rembrandt catalogue, he said, "but it is a lot, compared with other artists."

"We show the whole Rembrandt," said Jan Kelch, a ranking curator of the German National Museums in Berlin. "I think it's the big-

AIDS America — 100 deaths a day and the pace is quickening

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Ten years into the AIDS epidemic, the figures are all bad and getting worse. AIDS now kills more than 100 Americans a day. By 1993, the death toll is predicted to top 300 a day.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United States accounts for almost half the cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), reported worldwide since the disease entered medical history in 1981.

Relative to size of population, the United States has almost nine times the incidence of AIDS as Britain and three times that of France.

In the first decade of

AIDS, the disease killed 120,000 Americans — more than the Korean and Vietnam wars combined. Experts say the next decade is bound to be worse even if there were not a single new case of infection from now on.

The Centres for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that at least one million Americans have been infected to date with the AIDS-causing HIV virus that strips the body of its immune defences.

The alarming speed with which AIDS is spreading in the United States and worldwide has been spotlighted by two unrelated but equally grim reports by the National Commission on AIDS, a bipartisan body set up in 1988, and the WHO in Geneva.

Monitoring the relentless march of AIDS across the

globe, the WHO said that 163 countries had reported a total of 418,403 cases of AIDS in the past 10 years. The United States accounted for 191,601 cases.

The second-highest total —

21,719 — cases was reported from Uganda. Brazil had 19,361, the highest in Latin America. France had 15,534 cases, the most in Europe.

The U.S. National Commission combined a bleak assessment of the prospects of slowing down the spread of AIDS with blistering criticism of the health system, government apathy and American attitudes towards the disease.

Efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS and provide care for those who already had it, the commission noted,

were hampered by "two des-

tructive attitudes within our borders ...

"They are a thinly veiled feeling that those who acquire the virus are getting what they deserve and a collective indifference to their fate."

The commission deplored what it termed "the innocent/guilty mindset" of Americans who hold little sympathy for the largest group of AIDS sufferers. Homosexual men who contracted the disease through anal intercourse and drug addicts infected by sharing contaminated needles.

"There has been a dominant undercurrent of hostility towards many people with HIV disease ..." the commission noted.

Public opinion polls show that such views are slowly changing. In 1987, a Gallup survey showed that 42 per

cent of the population thought AIDS was punishment for a decline in moral standards. This year, only 34 per cent said they thought so.

Similarly, in 1987 almost half those interviewed thought most people with AIDS had only themselves to blame. Today, only a third say they think this way.

The "innocent/guilty mindset" has been spotlighted by huge outpourings of public sympathy for AIDS victims who did not contract the disease sexual contact or drug use.

A few years ago, Ryan White, a teenager infected through a blood transfusion, captured national attention.

More recently, the plight of Kimberly Bergalis, a Florida woman who contracted the disease from her dentist,

transfixed millions of Americans.

So weakened in the final stage of AIDS that she could barely speak, Ms. Bergalis appeared before a congressional committee to testify in favour of a bill that would require surgeons, dentists and other health professionals to be tested for the HIV virus.

"AIDS is a terrible disease that we must take seriously," Ms. Bergalis said. "I didn't do anything wrong but I'm being made to suffer for this." The inference could be drawn: Other AIDS sufferers did something wrong.

U.S. medical organisations, including the American Dental Association, oppose mandatory tests or restrictions because they say the risk of a patient being in-

fected by a health worker is minimal.

The Bergalis case was the only known doctor-patient transmission. Health experts say it diverted attention from the main issues in the AIDS crisis.

Unlike most other developed countries, the United States has neither a cabinet-level AIDS strategy nor universal health care.

Some 37 million Americans have no health insurance at all.

In the face of this, there is growing criticism of the Bush administration for lack of resolve to tackle the crisis.

A New York Times editorial said: "Several decades ago, (President Franklin D.) Roosevelt roused a generation of Americans to fight polio, a scourge to which he himself had fallen victim. Today, faced with an even worse epidemic, President Bush is shockingly mute."

group that historically has had difficulty in gaining access to and finding payment for primary care services," the commission noted.

Unlike most other developed countries, the United States has neither a cabinet-level AIDS strategy nor universal health care. Some 37 million Americans have no health insurance at all.

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A New York Times editorial said: "Several decades ago, (President Franklin D.) Roosevelt roused a generation of Americans to fight polio, a scourge to which he himself had fallen victim. Today, faced with an even worse epidemic, President Bush is shockingly mute."

Keith Thompson said at the Atlanta conference.

Doctors don't yet know if they can repeat the laser operation on patients for whom an initial operation fails to adequately correct nearsightedness. The laser-treated cornea occasionally gets hazy as it tries to heal, so vision can get slightly worse, even with glasses, in some patients.

Sceptics urge caution on laser surgery as alternative to eyeglasses

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — Some doctors say laser-beam eye surgery may let millions of nearsighted people throw away eyeglasses or contact lenses. But critics argue the procedure's safety and effectiveness will remain questionable for years.

Laser light already is widely and legitimately used for eye surgery to control glaucoma; treat injury or diabetes damage to the retina; and clear the haze that can form around artificial lens implants.

But controversy surrounds the use of Excimer lasers to correct mild to moderate myopia, or nearsightedness.

The outpatient surgery, named Photorefractive

Keratotomy or PRK, uses an Excimer laser beam to vaporise thin layers of tissue at the centre of the cornea.

The cornea is the transparent covering that, with the retina, helps focus light on the retina, or back of the eye. Nearsightedness can be corrected because the surgery flattens the cornea so it properly focuses light on the retina.

George Waring, an ophthalmologist at Emory University in Atlanta, said the surgery allows 85 per cent to 90 per cent of patients who get it to discard their glasses or contact lenses. The rest still must wear glasses. A few suffer insignificant or temporary side effects, he said.

Critics say it's safer to wear glasses or contacts. They worry about side effects, in-

cluding creation of a grey haze in the eye that can slightly impair vision, at least temporarily, and a "night halo" effect in which a few patients see halos around lights.

Doctors on both sides said the operation's long-term effectiveness in correcting nearsightedness remains unknown because the first U.S. operation was performed only two years ago. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is not expected to approve widespread use until at least mid-1994.

Nevertheless, 7,000 to 10,000 people worldwide — including about 1,000 Americans — already have undergone the surgery, said Dr. Carmen Puliafito, ophthalmology chairman at Tufts University in Boston.

Some 60 million to 70 million Americans are nearsighted, and 80 per cent of them have mild and moderate nearsightedness that could be corrected with laser surgery, Dr. Waring said.

Sceptics say it's too soon to tell how effective the process is.

"This procedure is still in its infancy," said Scott MacCrae, an ophthalmologist at Oregon Health Science University and a consultant to the FDA. "We need a good half-decade to see what the surgery really does in terms of effectiveness and safety."

Because laser myopia surgery doesn't weaken the eyeball, it may prove safer than radial Keratotomy, the nearsightedness operation in which the surgeon uses a knife to reshape the cornea

with a starburst-pattern of incisions.

Laser surgery for nearsightedness will cost about \$300 to \$1,500 per eye, about the same as radial Keratotomy, Dr. Waring said. That could prove cheaper than glasses or contact lenses in the long run.

Many eye doctors level identical criticism at laser surgery and radial Kerato-

tomy: Why cut or zap your eyeballs to treat nearsightedness that can be easily corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

"Having this done in your eyes to get rid of your glasses is nonsense," said Tom L. Johnson, an Oklahoma City ophthalmologist. "Why take a healthy myopic eye and expose it to surgery?"

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NOVEL PEOPLE
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS

1 Affected manners
5 Unit of measurement
10 Religious
14 Angel's dream
17 Cross
18 Come to smile
19 "Is there a..."
20 Influences
22 Who's wife?
24 Rich's dirty
manipulator?
25 Put down heavy
var.
27 Red Sash
28 Ancient consult
29 Beveler
32 "Sweet Rose
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DOWNS

1 Ottoman Empire
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2 Ch. of
3 Literary journal
4 Part the Seurat
5 Renowned
6 "— world
7 "Ode to
moss" (Browning)
8 Ordinary people
9 Volente
10 Granted
11 Kind of race
12 King's men
13 Jinx
14 Max. blazed
15 Called up
16 For
20 Bassie
21 Isr.'s neighbor
23 "Oklahoma" aunt
25 Stressed

Diagrams

19 X 18, By Craig Schultz

34 Above
35 Papal garments
36 "Cordless" man
37 Theoretical
performer
40 Alms —
41 "Achilles' heel"
42 Money
43 Make use of
44 "Hercules' skin
45 Bushwood
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47 Moved stealthily
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62 "Ben Jonson"
63 "Puritan's hit
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64 "Abel Naser
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Features

King, Arafat review outcome of talks

(Continued from page 1)

He said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will, in the coming stage, be split into Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli wings with each wing having its own agenda, but coordination will continue between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides on all issues.

Mr. Sharif condemned Israel's continued settlement in the occupied territories, including a new settlement inaugurated on Monday in the Golan Heights.

"All Arab parties are extremely concerned at the continuation of the settlements because if you continue you are making a farce, a comedy of the whole peace process," he said.

"You cannot talk about land-for-peace when the land is being grabbed by the other side," he added, in a reference to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 which form the basis of the peace talks.

In the coming stage of the talks the question of settlements will be seriously discussed because the issue is of paramount importance and should be given priority, the minister said.

Mr. Arafat said on arrival Tuesday that the first round of

bilateral talks between Arab delegations and Israel in the Middle East peace conference were successful.

The results of the first round of negotiations in Madrid were successful in general from the Arab and Palestinian perspective, Mr. Arafat told reporters in an arrival statement.

Mr. Arafat said during his stay in Jordan, he would assess the outcome of the Madrid talks with King Hussein and coordinate future stages of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

A PLO official said Mr. Arafat and King Hussein will form several joint committees entrusted with maintaining close coordination between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Jordanian government and the PLO.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the PLO official said the committees, ranging from political to information, will direct the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation during all stages of negotiations with Israel.

"All decisions will be made by King Hussein and Arafat and will be relayed to the joint negotiating team through these committees," the PLO official said.

Delegation returns from Madrid

(Continued from page 1)

and we are challenging them internationally on moral and political basis," said the professor of English literature.

Dr. Ashrawi predicted that eventually, the negotiations would lead to something positive after what she described as a "long and hard political battle" and with the continued support of the rest of the world.

"Always challenge, always stand up for your rights and always prepare your case very well," Dr. Ashrawi stressed. "And I think we are capable of doing it."

The Palestinian spokeswoman described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's speech at the Madrid conference as a "maximalist position," which she said was common Israeli policy. But she insisted that the "big no" should never be taken for granted and that it must be challenged. "This is what we have learned from the intifada," she commented.

"We have international law and legitimacy on our side. We have rights on our side. We also have lots of support — you would be amazed at the support we have, not just from the co-sponsors and the European countries, but tremendous Arab support and solidarity," Dr. Ashrawi said, adding that with hard work and dedication, "we are going to get somewhere."

A Palestinian delegate, Sa'eb Erekat, described the Madrid

conference as a "very important step, but at the same time it is a very small step."

Dr. Erekat, professor of political science, told reporters that the Madrid conference was "only one centimetre in a road that is 100 kilometres long."

The outspoken professor, who caused an Israeli uproar when he declared on an American television network before the convening of the conference that the Palestinian delegation was appointed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said that pressure on Israel was essential for it to stop building its settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

He added that the world could keep asking the Jewish state to stop building new settlements but that they would not respond in kind.

"If they have the money, they will continue to build settlements, if they don't have the money, they won't build the settlements. It's as simple as that," Dr. Erekat said.

Israel built a new settlement on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights on Monday, soon after the opening of the Madrid conference.

"I wonder how you can talk about peace and negotiating peace while obstacles are being built everyday," Dr. Erekat said. "And if Israel is going to be treated like a country above the laws of man, we have no hope for peace."

Baker rebukes Israel for settlement

(Continued from page 1)

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who used the occasion to attack the Madrid talks as a failure.

Mr. Baker said he was optimistic that Israel and at least one of the Arab countries would reach agreement on a venue for further talks. It was unlikely that would be Syria, Israel's staunch foe which proved the most reluctant to engage in negotiations.

"We'll be talking with these countries and we'll be talking with the parties to see if they can make progress," Mr. Baker said. "If there's no agreement... we

will feel free to submit proposals" as a site for future talks.

President George Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev, joint sponsors of the peace conference, were in Madrid last week to get the talks off the ground.

Mr. Baker remained until Sunday, working with the parties to help set up bilateral sessions between Israel and the various Arab countries, including the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Baker said the United States would be willing, if invited by the Middle East parties, to participate in their talks.

Camp refugees show cautious optimism over Madrid talks

'The right of all to return would be total justice'

By Marizan Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After 43 years of uninterrupted tension and conflict Palestinians and Israelis sat at a negotiating table as equals for the first time last week in Madrid. Under the guise of the new world order, the Palestinians, political analysts predict, will get back some of the land that was taken from them by the Israelis once the negotiations are finalised in a year or two from now.

For many Palestinians however, a negotiated settlement which will bring the West Bank, Gaza and possibly parts of Jerusalem back under Arab rule is a partial justice and one that in all likelihood will exclude them.

For the 2.5 million registered Palestinian refugees, the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem is not home. Their homes, for which many still have deeds and keys, are in Jaffa, Haifa, Acre and other cities, towns and villages in the parts of Palestine that became Israel in 1947 and were occupied by Israel in 1948.

To them, the talks in Madrid were not unwelcome; return of parts of Palestine is better than nothing, they say; partial justice is better than none.

But they fear for their own future, they wonder if they will ever be given the opportunity to use the "right of return" guaranteed to them by the United Nations or if, as one woman said, "We will be refugees forever."

Just outside Amman, in the Baqaa refugee camp, the atmosphere is "guarded." The 120,000 residents of this squall camp are all refugees or descendants of refugees from 1947-48.

Despite the mention of the right of return by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafiq, during his opening speech in Madrid last week, these 2.5 million people have been given little or no hope of return by the ongoing peace negotiations.

Kifah, a 22-year-old student and resident of the Baqaa camp, explains that his family as all others in the camp are two-time refugees. "My family left the Jaffa area in 1947 and

fled the refugee camp where we lived in Jericho in 1967," he said. "We are not against a negotiated settlement if it brings justice, but if it is just a new cloak of oppression and denial of rights, then we are not interested," Kifah said in a nervous voice. "Some people will be able to return if they make peace with Israel, but we will still be refugees," said Kifah convinced that the 1948 refugee issue would not be addressed.

Kifah said that the camp people were pleased with the Palestinian delegation and the Coordinating Committee's efforts in Madrid. They were "good," he said, mentioning Dr. Abdul Shafiq and Dr. Ashrawi in particular. "They showed the world that we are good, educated people who can speak the language of peace."

The attack on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara had also been welcomed by the camp people. "He spoke the truth when he said that Shamir was a terrorist.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, 7-8, 1991.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Baltics readmitted to ITF

LONDON (R) — The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been provisionally readmitted to the International Tennis Federation (ITF). ITF spokesman Ian Barnes said Wednesday the decision, to be ratified by the federation's 1992 annual general meeting, would allow the three states to enter tennis players for next year's Olympic Games. Teams will also be able to enter the Davis Cup and Federation Cup in the future. The ITF will not hold its annual general meeting until next September, a month after the Barcelona Olympics end. But Barnes said the provisional membership, granted by the ITF's Management Committee, was enough to allow the three newly-independent states into the Olympic competition. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were ITF members before being absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940. Since regaining independence in September, they have been readmitted to the International Olympic Committee and a number of international sports bodies. The Baltic States have also been accepted as members of the International Handball Federation, the federation said Tuesday. On Sunday, the three republics were re-admitted to the International Yacht Racing Union.

S. Korea seeks 10th place in Olympics

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea aims to capture 12 gold medals and place 10th in the 1992 Summer Olympics, top sports officials said. Sports and Youth Minister Park Chul-Um and Korea Amateur Sports Association President Kim Jong-Yol reported to President Roh Tae-Woo that all sports organisations will be put under a special Olympic system beginning Wednesday for efforts to meet the target. South Korea won 12 gold medals and ranked fourth in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, after the Soviet Union, East Germany and the United States. Mr. Park said he expects the United States, Western Europe and China to perform strongly in the 1992 Olympics, with Soviet and East European athletic fortunes declining in the wake of political upheavals. He predicted that South Korea would win two gold medals each in judo, badminton, wrestling and archery and one each in weightlifting, boxing, table tennis and gymnastics.

Monaco beats Norrköping 1-0

MONACO (AP) — Monaco beat the Swedish club Norrköping, 1-0, in the second leg of the second round of the European Cupwinner's Soccer tournament. Monaco won the first leg two weeks ago, 2-1, and advanced with a total goal count of 3-1. Christophe Robert scored the only goal for Monaco at the 26-minute mark. He went through the defense to score an unassisted goal. Four other French clubs attempt to qualify later this week in the European tournaments.

Juventus advances to cup quarters

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Juventus of Turin clinched a berth in the quarterfinals of the Italian Cup by defeating Atalanta of Bergamo 3-1 in their second-leg, third-round game. The Turin team scored decisive goals in the second half following a 1-1 halftime tie at delle Alpi Stadium. Atalanta, which had held Juventus to a goalless draw in the first leg in Bergamo, took an early lead in the 13th minute when defender Tebaldo Bigliardi kicked in from ten metres following a mite. Brazilian defender Julio Cesar tallied the equalizer in the 43rd, with a shot from outside the penalty area, on a free kick. Italian midfielders Eugenio Corini, on a controversial penalty kick in the 54th, and Angelo Alessio, on a fat counter-attack in the 76th, ended Atalanta's hopes. Latin American forwards Claudio Caniggia and Carlos Bianchi spoiled two good scoring chances for Atlanta while Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci failed to score.

Osasuna downs Stuttgart 3-2

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Osasuna Pamplona of Spain shocked Stuttgart with two early goals Tuesday and went on to reach the third round of the UEFA Cup with a 3-2 victory over the German team. Osasuna's Polish striker Jan Urban outsmarted the Stuttgart defense in the 8th minute to put the visitors ahead and Angel Mering made it 2-0 after another fast break in the 17th. Urban finished off the Germans with his second goal two minutes into the second half. Guido Buchwald scored for Stuttgart in the 80th, and Eyjolfur Sverrisson, the Iceland striker, capped the late German effort with a goal in the 89th. A crowd of 15,000 witnessed the game.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Athletes may undergo blood tests as early as 1992 Olympics

BARCELONA (R) — Olympic athletes may be subjected to blood tests to help detect drugs as early as next year's games in Barcelona.

Prince Alexandre de Merode of Belgium, chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission, has said a decision depended on the outcome of current research.

He told a recent news conference after the second IOC World Congress of Sports Scientists a decision on the viability of blood testing for the 1992 games could be made following a meeting of the IOC executive board in Lausanne, Switzerland in December.

Previous indications had been that the earliest possible date for the introduction of blood tests was 1996, at the Atlanta Games.

Prince De Merode said that while few legal and ethical concerns over blood testing surfaced, the IOC was studying potential opposition on religious grounds. At the same time, measures

were being drawn up to ensure maximum security for blood samples, should they be used, he said.

Prince De Merode stressed that while his commission was proceeding "with all possible speed" towards a decision, the IOC needs to be cautious about such medical innovations.

"Blood tests must never replace the tests we now carry out. If it happens, it must be urine and blood tests in conjunction," he said.

Some substances are detectable only in urine samples, and others only in blood.

Within the Olympic movement only the International Ski Federation (FIS) had conducted blood tests and these were not as broad in scope as the IOC required, Prince De Merode said.

On another testing issue, Prince De Merode said that the IOC had recently established a subcommittee to meet before the end of the year to tackle inconsistent drug policies.

Dr. Pipe also endorsed the idea

of an IOC medical ethics commission to hold doctors and medical scientists more accountable as their roles within the Olympic movement expanded.

Urging delegates to start policies in their own fields of study, Dr. Pipe referred to case of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, disqualified and banned from competition their testing positive for drugs after winning the 100 metres Olympics final in Seoul in 1988.

"In my country we are only too familiar with the tragic dimensions of drug scandal," Dr. Pipe declared. "Another scandal of that magnitude in my country will destroy for a decade the reputation of elite level sport. The public will not trust us any more."

The congress was the second of its kind, following one held in Colorado Springs in 1989. A third is due to be held in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1993, a year before the winter Olympics are held there.

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Rehe upsets Garrison in Slims of California

OAKLAND, California (R) — Stephanie Rehe of the United States, ranked 146th in the world, celebrated her 22nd birthday with the first set 6-0. The 23-year-old Czechoslovak used an almost flawless serve-and-volley attack to send Woodforde running all over the fast supreme court indoor surface.

But Woodforde fought back in the second set with precision groundstrokes and underspin drop-volleys, then gave Korda just enough room to beat himself with double-faults and unforced errors in the third.

Other visitors included defending champion Andrei Cherkasov, who beat qualifier Florian Krumrey 6-3, 6-4 in an easy contest, and first seed Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, who defeated German Udo Riegelski 7-6, 6-2. Woodforde, ranked 112th in

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

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SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have special creative gift that requires you devote a considerable longer time to it if you want to have it open up in full flower potential.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Zip your lip at that big temptation to make a sudden comment to one member of your family who has gotten under your very sensitive skin.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think out what you can do to please others with whom you have daily contact rather than preoccupy yourself so intensely with your own concerns.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) You feel you don't have the right manner in which to bring prosperity to your upwardly mobile ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are doing more than you have done in the past to gain satisfaction in your work.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are highly wrapped up in getting what you have made in utter consciousness and even though you want to gain some satisfaction in your work you avoid going off on any tangents.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to attend to whatever promises you have made in utter consciousness and even though you want to gain some satisfaction in your work you avoid going off on any tangents.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to show you are one who does things facing you in a cheerful manner even though like Pagina you are smiling through tears.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are eager for a good time now and if you concentrate and hold your activi-

ties to those matters that you can avoid any trouble.

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Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close Date: 5/11/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 6/11/1991
Sterling Pound*	1.7750	1.7690
Deutsche Mark	7.6386	7.6427
Swiss Franc	1.4450	1.4496
French Franc	5.6020	5.6180 **
Japanese Yen	130.00	129.90
European Currency Unit	1.2460	1.2452 **

* USD Per STG
** European Opening & 100 a.m. GMT

Europemoney Interest Rates Date: 6/11/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.06	5.00	5.16
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.31	10.25	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.43	9.43	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.81	8.25	8.18	8.12
French Franc	9.09	9.18	9.25	9.28
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.18	5.87	5.62
European Currency Unit	9.46	9.81	9.81	9.81

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.55	6.85	Silver	4.07	.089

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2083	1.2143
Deutsche Mark	0.4158	0.4179
Swiss Franc	0.4714	0.4736
French Franc	0.1216	0.1222
Japanese Yen*	0.5252	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3689	0.3707
Swedish Krona	0.1140	0.1146
Italian Lira*	0.0555	0.0558
Belgian Franc	0.02019	0.02029

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 6/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7950
Lebanese Lira*	0.0774	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1821	0.1831
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1655	0.1665
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7510	1.7610
UAE Dirham	0.1855	0.1865
Greek Drachma*	0.3471	0.3728
Cypriot Pound	1.4770	1.4920

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market:

Index	4/11/1991 Close	5/11/1991 Close
All-Share	124.49	124.33
Banking Sector	105.07	104.99
Insurance Sector	126.43	126.16
Industry Sector	154.07	153.81
Services Sector	132.10	131.92

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

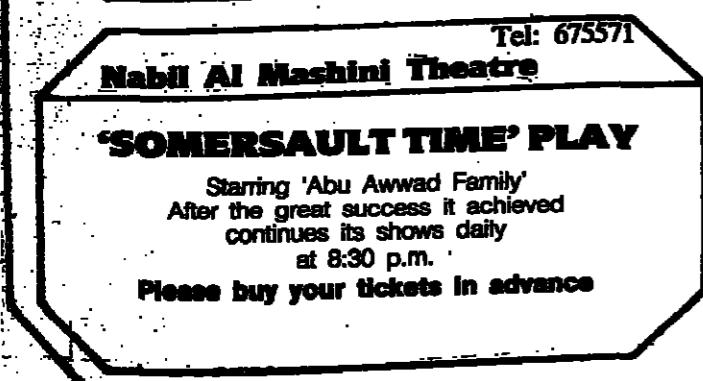
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7750/60	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar,
One U.S. dollar	1.1229/34	Deutschmarks	Deutschmarks
	1.6375/85	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
	1.8450/60	French francs	Belgian francs
	1.4478/85	Italian lire	French francs
	33.71/75	Japanese yen	Swiss francs
	5.5925/75	Swedish kronas	Norwegian kronas
	1226/1227	Danish kronas	U.S. dollars
	129.75/85		
	5.9800/50		
	6.4230/80		
	6.3560/3610		
One ounce of gold	353.90/354.40		

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Big U.S. banks drop lending rates

Federal Reserve lowers discount rate to 4.5%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Wednesday slashed its key bank lending rate from 5.0 per cent to 4.5 per cent, the lowest level in 18 years and the fifth such move since December designed to ensure the U.S. economy's escape from recession.

"Action was taken against the background of sluggish expansion of the monetary and credit aggregates in an environment of abating inflationary pressures," the announcement said.

The reduction, in part, also realigns the discount rate with other short-term market rates, it added.

The discount rate is the interest the Federal Reserve charges commercial banks for loans. Such a move usually results in lower interest on other loans, including consumer credit, and thus stimulates spending and economic growth.

The vote to lower the discount rate was 4-1, with Federal Reserve Governor Wayne Angell voting no.

The move followed by a day a meeting of Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank's monetary policy-making arm. Many analysts expected the committee to approve a further reduction in the federal funds rate as well.

The Federal Reserve on Oct. 30 had permitted the federal funds rate to fall to five per cent from 5.25 per cent. But the reduction in the benchmark discount rate Wednesday was considered an even more dramatic signal that the central bank intends to battle economic weakness with easier credit.

Many analysts have expressed concern over the continuing sluggish nature of the recovery, some even fearing the possibility of a "double-dip" recession in which the economy turns down again after a brief rebound.

The decline was the fifth since Dec. 18, when the rate was lowered to 6.5 per cent from seven per cent, and dropped the rate to the 'lowest' level since Jan. 15, 1973, when it was raised from 4.5 per cent to five per cent.

Each time the Federal Reserve lowered the discount rate since December, the move was accompanied by a drop in the federal funds rate, the interest banks

charge each other for overnight loans.

The Federal Reserve board controls the discount rate, while the Federal Open Market Committee sets the targets for the federal funds rate.

Federal Reserve policy is aimed at ensuring economic growth while avoiding inflation. During the late 1980s, when inflation was a threat, the bank boosted interest rates to slow price increase.

But as inflation slowed and higher interest rates took their toll on economic growth, the central bank began lowering the funds rate in mid-1989, trying to guide the economy into what became known as a "soft landing," rather than crashing into an actual downturn.

Still, after months of fits and starts, the economy fell into recession in July 1990. And as it grew weaker after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the following month, the Federal Reserve let rates fall faster.

When the Federal Reserve lowered the discount rate to 6.5 per cent last December, it was the first such move in more than four years. As economic weakness persisted, the bank pushed the rate down to six per cent on Feb. 1 and to 5.5 per cent on April 30 and to five per cent on Sept. 18.

The prime rate accompanied several of the Federal Reserve discount rate moves, falling from 9.5 per cent to 9.0 per cent on Feb. 1, to 8.5 per cent on May 1 and to eight per cent on Sept. 13. Banks use this important interest rate to calculate a range of other loan rates including some types of mortgages.

Shortly after the Fed announcement major banks moved to lower their prime lending rates Wednesday a half percentage point to 7.5 per cent, the fifth decline this year and the lowest level in five years.

J.P. Morgan and Co. was the first to announce the prime rate cut, effective immediately. It was closely followed by BankAmerica Corp., Manufacturers Hanover Corp., Chemical Banking Corp., First Chicago Corp. and Citicorp.

Other major commercial banks were expected to follow the move, which lowers the cost of borrowing money to millions of ordinary bank customers and

refuses to do long-term interest rates or the (1990) budget agreement."

Referring to the crop of tax-cut proposals that have sprouted on Capitol Hill, Mr. Bush said, "some of these suggestions that shoot the long-term interest rates right out through the roof are simply unacceptable. I'm talking about the idea of getting broad tax cuts without regard as to what it does to long-term interest rates or the (1990) budget agreement."

It was his first major policy initiative since taking office last month after prime minister Petre Roman was forced from power by anti-reform riots.

Mr. Stolojan said the hard currency bank accounts of state-owned firms would be frozen

immediately and the national bank would buy up the cash for local currency at a rate resulting from the unifying of the present clumsy two-tier exchange system.

"Romania can get access to foreign resources only if it proves its commitment to a market economy," Mr. Stolojan said in a hard-hitting state-of-the-economy speech.

"The only such way is unification of the exchange rate and the internal convertibility of the leu," he said. "The two-tier exchange rate aggravates inflationary pressure in the economy."

Until now the leu was quoted at an official rate of 60 per dollar. In an interbank market, launched last February as a step towards convertibility, it has recently reached disastrously low levels.

On the black market the rate was less favourable than the bank rates but Romanians often preferred to change money illegally rather than queue in banks.

Mr. Stolojan said the central bank would merge official and interbank rates and the new float-

Western firms keen to start manufacturing in Gulf Arab countries

dom's Eastern Province.

The company, International Health Safety and Environment INC, was also planning two plants in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — one to produce a type of "superwood" made from processed garbage and another to make oil adsorption sponges from the petrochemical polypropylene.

"We're looking to export from here to markets outside the Gulf... the Far East, Europe and Pacific rim," he said.

Ronald Anderson, executive director of the Hardwoods Development Council of Pennsylvania, said he was doing market research for 5,000 small firms interested in exporting to the Gulf or setting up assembly plants for furniture and cabinets.

"Since the war a lot of our companies have said they're thinking about doing business in this market," he said.

Norman Hahn, president of the Pennsylvania firm Conestoga Wood Specialties, said he was negotiating to set up an assembly plant in Saudi Arabia.

"We think there are a lot of opportunities here," said Mr. Hahn, on his first trip to the Middle East.

Many Western exhibitors said U.S. and British involvement in the allied campaign which drove Iraq from Kuwait in February had helped smoothed their path into Gulf markets.

"There's no question in my mind that since the war some Gulf countries have actually eased regulations for foreign companies to do business in this area," Jered Peebles, director of

the Sacramento-based Arab American Business Alliance said.

Firms from 4

Serbia accuses Croatia of 2nd attack on its territory

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia accused the rival Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Wednesday of mounting a second attack on its territory in new blow to peace hopes after talks with the European Community (EC) broke up without agreement.

Tanjung News Agency said 10 grenades fell on Apatin, a town of 18,000 people on the Serbian side of the Danube River border between the two republics shortly before midnight Tuesday.

Three houses were damaged but no one was hurt, it said. It was the second attack on Serbian soil in 12 hours as the Serb-led Yugoslav army fought Croatian militia with artillery and mortars across Croatia Tuesday.

Serbia said the border town of Sid was shelled earlier, killing four people in Croatia's first major assault inside Serbia.

Serbian Prime Minister Dragutin Zelenovic visited Apatin, 140 kilometres northwest of the Serbian and Yugoslav capital Belgrade Wednesday. He blamed the attack on Croatia and criticised the growing influence of Germany.

"On the global plane, the activities of the countries who lost the last war and who now, thanks

to their economic strength, have decided to realise the domination they earlier aspired to through wars, are in question," Mr. Zelenovic said.

"What happened in Sid and last night in Apatin is also an organised approach of Croatian fascists who are in the service of the above-mentioned countries," Tanjung quoted him as saying.

Croatian Radio said the federal army attacked the nearby Danube town of Vukovar late Tuesday. The Croatian towns of Karlovac and Osijek also came under fire overnight.

Fighting has raged in Croatia since many of its 600,000 Serbians took up arms to oppose its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Croatia, a republic of 4.5 million people, says more than 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed since June.

Croatia has denied responsibility for the attack on Sid. It has not commented on the Apatin attack.

On Tuesday, the latest peace talks with the community in the Hague broke up after Serbia rejected for the third time an EC peace plan to group the six

Yugoslav republics in a looser alliance, spelling the end of the Yugoslav state created in 1918.

The four other republics refused to make amendments to a plan suggested by Serbia and its ally Montenegro allowing Serbs in Croatia and in their territories to be united with Serbia and other republics wishing to remain in a single state.

Britain's Lord Carrington, the chairman of the EC talks, said the warring sides had agreed to order a 12th ceasefire since fighting began but he was doubtful if it would hold.

"Given the failure of previous ceasefires, I am not sanguine that this latest attempt will succeed where others have failed," he told a news conference.

Serbia now faces the prospect of EC economic sanctions for rejecting the plan.

But Lord Carrington said in a radio interview that sanctions were unlikely to end the fighting.

"The problem we have... is that we don't really have any sanctions. We don't have any weapons with which we can stop this," he said.

Cyrus Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, arrived in Belgrade Tuesday for a one-day visit

as the personal envoy of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Vance expressed the profound concern of the international community at the escalation of the Yugoslav crisis. Tanjung said after he met Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar.

Mr. Vance is also due to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Federal Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Tuesday that if European Community peace efforts in Yugoslavia failed, Croatian independence would have to be recognised as a result.

"I am full of doubt that this (EC-brokered plan) can succeed," Mr. Kohl said during a panel discussion with students in the east German university town of Jena.

He commented that the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army, fighting to prevent the Croatian Republic's breakaway from the multi-ethnic Yugoslav Federation, seemed to have escaped the control of political authorities.

Floods kill 2,200 in Philippines

ORMOC, Philippines (R) — Huge floods and landslides triggered by tropical storm Thelma killed at least 2,260 people and destroyed thousands of homes across the central Philippines, relief officials said Wednesday.

Bodies of children drowned in water up to 10 feet (three metres) deep lay in the streets of the worst-hit town of Ormoc, where local officials said at least 2,000 people died when the storm hit Tuesday, deluging farms and villages.

Corpses were piled on every street in the town of Leyte Island.

"People are walking around like zombies. Everyone has a death in the family," said Cebu Governor Emilio Osmeña, who flew down to inspect the devastation across the town of 120,000 people.

Rescue workers used municipal trucks to ferry the bodies 50 at a time to the local cemetery where residents dug common graves for those not identified or claimed by relatives.

"There's at least 2,000 dead here," estimated Maria Victoria Locsin, mayor of Ormoc, some 560 kilometres south east of Manila.

Corpses were covered with sheets and straw mats. Some were piled up in wooden boxes.

Residents said strong winds buried cars down the streets and some were blown into the sea.

Funeral parlours in the town were overflowing with bodies, and local officials appealed to the government to send supplies of Formalyn to smother the stench of the corpses.

Mr. Osmeña appealed for extra coffins.

The death toll across the central Philippine islands of Leyte and Negros was estimated by relief officials in the Leyte capital of Tacloban at more than 2,260.

At least 700,000 people were affected by the disaster, the worst flooding to hit the Philippines in seven years, and more than 50,000 were made homeless.

"We expect more reports of casualties to come in. Rescue operations are being hampered by lack of electricity," said Colonel Orville Gabuna, regional police commander based in Tacloban.

The trans-Atlantic link is vital to NATO, but it has come under strain recently. There is growing pressure in the United States to slash defence spending and make deeper cuts in the U.S. troops presence in Europe than planned. Washington currently expects to halve this to around 150,000.

NATO to unveil new strategy at Rome summit

ROME (R) — NATO leaders will unveil a new strategy at a landmark summit which starts Thursday, pledging major changes in the Western alliance's military forces and offering formal ties to their cold war enemies for the first time.

The Rome summit, almost exactly two years after the Berlin Wall was opened, will chart a new course for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) now that the Soviet-backed military threat to the West has collapsed.

"The task for the summit will be a fine balancing act of solving the old quarrels with the French while convincing the United States that this is still a worthwhile alliance," one senior NATO diplomat said Reuters.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl sought to reassure Washington Wednesday that Germany remained a loyal ally despite the fact that it supported Paris in moves to create a European Pact to build security in Europe.

"A united Europe is in the long run unthinkable without a common European defence," Mr. Kohl told parliament. "This is neither an expression of doubt of the stability of the Atlantic alliance, nor an attempt to create a competing body."

NATO leaders will offer to hold regular meetings of foreign ministers with those countries and the newly-independent Baltic states — the first of them next month in Brussels — to discuss military and security issues.

But they will not offer security guarantees for any form of membership to Eastern European nations like Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which are worried about turmoil in the Soviet Union and other economic and social problems.

NATO argues that it will remain "an anchor of stability" for Europe, and that such guarantees are unnecessary, despite the fact that some Eastern European nations have requested them.

NATO diplomats say the two-day summit will also help resolve some disagreements among member nations and it will make a strong commitment that the United States, the alliance's senior member, should remain involved in European security.

The smaller forces will be restructured into multinational units, some of them able to deploy anywhere on NATO territory quickly as "rapid reaction" forces.

But the strategy also reaffirms many basic tenets of alliance able to guarantee the security of its member nations, with some nuclear weapons stationed in Europe.

COLUMN 8

Thieves dig tunnel to bank, steal millions

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombian thieves made off with millions of dollars in jewels and cash after breaking into a bank through a 60-foot (20-metres) tunnel they dug and equipped with lights and telephones, bank officials say. The air-conditioned tunnel, bolstered by wooden walls, was buried inside a cafeteria near the centre of downtown Bogota and surfaced underneath the safety deposit boxes in the state-owned Caja Agraria Bank, police said.

Leadership of NATO and has long been at odds with its allies, signed up to most of the new strategy — for the first time since it left the alliance's military structure.

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Chancellor Helmut Kohl sought to reassure Washington Tuesday, after a three-day holiday weekend, long after the thieves escaped. The authorities said they would immediately begin investigating how the tunnel could be built through the busy downtown without detection. Among the stolen goods were diamonds, emeralds, and cash, said holders of safety deposit boxes at the scene. One box holder faintly said when she heard her valuables had been taken. A statement from Caja Agraria's management said only 8 per cent of the bank's 2,500 boxes were sacked.

Woman scalped while sleeping

BALTIMORE (AP) — A woman who was scalped as she slept in a bedroom was recovering Tuesday after surgery, police said. "Never in my 18 years of police work — and I've seen some pretty bizarre things — have I seen anything quite like this," said homicide detective David Brown. Sheila Cowherd, 43, was in stable condition when she heard her valuables had been taken. A statement from Caja Agraria's management said only 8 per cent of the bank's 2,500 boxes were sacked.

Man killed in car accident

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry is to be revamped and its staff drastically cut as part of a major restructuring of government institutions, Foreign Minister Boris Pankin has said.

Soviet Trade missions abroad are to close, but none of the increasingly independent Soviet republics plans to open its own embassies, Mr. Pankin told a news conference.

He declined to give figures on the magnitude of the cuts discussed at Monday's meeting of the State Council, the top interim Soviet institution following last Friday's failed coup.

But the said participants suggested the ministry, to be renamed the Ministry of External Relations, could undergo reductions of 30 to 40 per cent in its staff of about 3,500.

"This will all depend on how we re-evaluate the old and new functions, taking into account coordination with ministries of the sovereign republics," he said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said last week that he would not support the cuts.

Soviet Foreign Ministry to be revamped, staff cut

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An autopsy was expected Wednesday in Tenerife, off the Moroccan coast. Authorities questioned the crew of the Yacht and Angel Delgado, the island's civil governor, was personally coordinating the investigation.

Spanish National Radio said Mr. Maxwell's body was found unclothed and showed no signs of violence. Maxwell was last seen before dawn Tuesday on the yacht, 14 hours before a rescue helicopter pulled his body out of the sea.

Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers said the 180-foot (60 metre) vessel was cruising when Maxwell was last seen, walking on its deck.

It said in a statement that he had been the yacht's only passenger, in addition to about a dozen crew members. The publisher was said to be taking a few days off from his hectic work schedule.

The Daily Mirror of London, Maxwell's flagship newspaper, said he had dinner alone in a restaurant on Tenerife then re-boarded the yacht and instructed his crew to cruise all night at sea.

His mysterious death comes as the \$2 billion global publishing empire he personally ran, which includes the New York Daily News, is burdened with debt.

Mr. Maxwell had been selling assets to raise money to meet a \$750 million payment due in October 1992.

In addition, Mr. Maxwell had political troubles. He was suing American journalist Seymour Hersh for alleging in a new book that he had ties to Israel's Mossad spy agency.

The strike was opposed by the ANC's main rival, Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, which has a strong presence in Alexandra. Inkatha and the ANC have been locked in a bitter power struggle since 1986.

Police said four people were killed Tuesday in political attacks

Ukraine to sign economic union treaty

KIEV, USSR (AP) — Ukraine's parliament voted Wednesday to allow its prime minister to sign a treaty creating a new economic community out of the old Soviet Union.

The decision was a victory for Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaly Fokin as well as for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who has sought to hold all the republics together in an economic union.

Parliament voted 236-96 to allow Mr. Fokin to sign the economic treaty provisionally. After that, it will then be submitted to the lawmakers for ratification.

The Ukraine abstained when eight republics signed the treaty on Oct. 18 to create a common market.

But its participation — as well as that of Moldavia, which said Tuesday that it would sign — leaves only Georgia and Azerbaijan out of the pact.

Lawmakers in the increasingly independent Ukraine — the agricultural and industrial powerhouse of the Soviet Union — expressed concern that the treaty left too much power in the hands of the central government.

A spokeswoman for the pro-ANC Human Rights Commission said 20 anti-apartheid leaders were assassinated in the year to June and the rate of killings had increased since then.

"We have seen an increase in the number of targeted attacks. Twelve people were killed in this sort of hit squad action in September alone," she said.

Inkatha's violence study unit said Tuesday that 25 local leaders of the mainly Zulu movement had been assassinated since January.

The unit said three people had been murdered since Inkatha, the ANC and the government signed a peace pact on Sept. 14.

In Cape Town, police arrested ANC organizer Molisi Petane on charges of murder and attempted murder.

ANC spokeswoman Rosie Campbell said police declined to give details of the charges against Mr. Petane, a veteran of South Africa's Robben Island political prison and the movement's local head of political education.

"We are sure this is just intimidation. There won't any evidence against him," she said.

The strike was opposed by the ANC's main rival, Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, which has a strong presence in Alexandra. Inkatha and the ANC have been locked in a bitter power struggle since 1986.

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Gates confirmed as CIA chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Tuesday overwhelmingly confirmed Robert Gates as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) following a six-month ordeal that laid bare painful disputes within the spy agency.

The vote was 64 for 31, a strong margin despite the taint of the Iran-contra affair that clung to Mr. Gates through much of the confirmation hearings and charges that he tailored intelligence reports to suit the political views of Reagan administration higher-ups.

Backed by a solid phalanx of Republicans, Mr. Gates benefited from a split within Democrats

tic ranks to survive the longest and most controversial approval process ever for a CIA nominee. Confirmation also reversed the sharpest setback in the career of Mr. Gates, whose swift rise up the CIA ladder was stymied in 1987 when President Ronald Reagan named him to head the agency but he was forced to withdraw under the cloud of Iran-contra.

President George Bush said in a statement issued after the Senate's action that the "vote is a confirmation that Bob Gates has the professional expertise and experience to lead our intelligence community during these changing times."

remaining in the term of the late Sen. John Heinz.

"I think I was just lucky to be the messenger of a message that was there," exulted Mr. Wofford, who campaigned as an advocate of nationwide health insurance, extended jobless benefits and middle-class tax cuts.

In a third surprise, Washington State rejected an effort to slap term limits on state officials and its members of Congress, House Speaker Tom Foley among them. A proposal to make Washington the first state to legalise doctor-assisted suicide failed as well.

Democratic Lt.-Gov. Bruton Jones was elected Governor of Kentucky over a veteran Republican congressman hampered by an admission he had bounced checks at the house bank.

Mayors Ray Flynn in Boston and Kurt Schmoke in Baltimore easily won new terms.